



Daily Report

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Yeltsin Freezes Relations With Yugoslavia

ITAR-TASS reports that Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "On Measures Connected With the Fulfilment of U.N. Security Resolution 757, of May 30, 1992", effectively 'freezing' relations between Russia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia." "The document, signed by the president on July 14, instructs all Russian state and private enterprises, banks and organisations to proceed in their activities from the fact that exports to Russia of goods from Yugoslavia, any activity exercised by Russian citizens which would promote exports from Yugoslavia, any transactions by Yugoslav citizens connected with goods or products manufactured in Yugoslavia are suspended 'until further notice'."

Russian Supreme Soviet Assesses Baltic Ties

ITAR-TASS reports that the Supreme Soviet "adopted a decision on 17 July 'On Human Rights in Estonia'". The Supreme Soviet expressed concern "about the fact that individual provisions" of the Estonian Constitution and Supreme Council laws and decisions "grossly violate" articles of the Russian-Estonian treaty of 12 January 1991. Supreme Soviet committees were instructed to draw up by 20 September "a draft decision...on the temporary suspension of the state treaty between Russian and Estonia."

The Supreme Soviet also adopted a statement "'On Human Rights in the Baltic States'", in which it "'resolutely repudiates the inclusion in the legislative acts of the Baltic states of articles that make discrimination on grounds of nationality the norm and that lead to an increase in social and political tension and have a negative influence on regional stability.'"

Debate Over IZVESTIYA's Future Continues

IZVESTIYA reports that the Supreme Soviet Committee on the Press and Mass Media, having examined the recent draft resolution on IZVESTIYA, deemed its adoption by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to be "impossible." The "finding" suggested that a change in IZVESTIYA's legal status will "inevitably be rejected both by the newspaper's readers...and by the journalists' collective." Furthermore, the finding said "it is quite obvious that the situation which has arisen goes beyond the bounds of a purely legal clash and is taking on a patently political character" and recommended that the draft resolution "be removed from consideration."

CIS Foreign, Defense Ministers Meet in Tashkent

ITAR-TASS reports that the CIS foreign and defense ministers held a meeting in Tashkent and signed a "protocol on temporary procedures for forming groups of military observers and collective peacekeeping forces in conflict zones between states and in the CIS member states," while "the CIS leaders are planning to sign an accord on setting up CIS peacekeeping forces within a week," INTERFAX adds. Moscow International Service adds that in an interview with ITAR-TASS, CIS commander Marshal Shaposhnikov said that "a commander of the collective forces has not been appointed yet," but "once the CIS presidents decide to form such forces a commander will be appointed in one region or another, depending on the situation."

Shaposhnikov, Ukrainian Official on Nuclear Arms

OW1707083392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0754 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Problems and Opinions" feature: "The Nature of the Disagreements Between Ukraine and the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces on Strategic Nuclear Armaments"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interviews given to our correspondent Marina Chernukha by Ukrainian First Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan and the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Correspondent [Corr.]: As far as I can see, the ultimate reason for Marshal Shaposhnikov's objections is that the missiles stationed on your territory are not his responsibility since they are going to be formally controlled by Ukraine. Could you explain Ukraine's position on this issue?

BIZHAN: Although Ukraine is not a nuclear state, it has found itself in a position where it has nuclear weapons stationed on its territory. So you can't expect Ukraine to take no interest at all in what will be happening to these weapons. It certainly matters to us whether missiles will be launched from our territory. We firmly intend to keep to the terms of START 2, which calls for the consistent reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. So we want not only the nuclear warheads but also the booster rockets to be removed from our territory.

Corr.: Some time ago Ukraine insisted on becoming a nuclear-free state in 1994. What made you decide afterwards that it needed as long as seven years to attain this status?

BIZHAN: You see, when the experts had done all the calculations it became clear that it was impossible to remove all strategic nuclear forces from Ukraine by 1994. So the reason for our decision was purely technical. Nor does this contradict START 2.

Corr.: Why can't you accept detargeting and the removal of the nuclear warheads if they are to be replaced with nonnuclear equivalents?

BIZHAN: Because the problem should be solved consistently: If you remove the warheads you should dismantle the boosters immediately after that. Of course, it would be the easiest thing for Shaposhnikov to do to remove all the warheads and take them out of Ukraine. Whereas Ukraine will be left with those boosters which are quite dangerous if the warheads are removed.

Corr.: Are you not convinced that Marshal Shaposhnikov will keep his promise to dismantle the boosters after replacing the nuclear warheads with nonnuclear equivalents?

BIZHAN: I'm not entirely convinced—let's put it like this. Some time ago the Council of Heads of State

instructed Shaposhnikov to provide the Ukrainian President with technical means to prevent nuclear weapons stationed on our territory from being used. He promised he'd get everything done in a month. It's been six months now, and nothing has been done. More than that, he's now saying this is unfeasible anyway.

Corr.: Would you consent to the detargeting of the missiles?

BIZHAN: That's up to Maksimov and Shaposhnikov. If they think that's the most important thing to do, let them do it. We won't object.

We thought we ought to ask Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to comment on this interview.

SHAPOSHNIKOV: It is true that it was suggested in Alma-Ata some time ago that the presidents of CIS states be provided with means to prevent nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of their states from being used. I said during the discussion that we would think about it. First of all, we established a kind of hot lines among all presidents. Each president can now make use of such a line to voice his disagreement with the rest on any military matter. We think this is quite enough. What Ukraine demands effectively means its joining the system of technical control of nuclear weapons, in which case the world would regard it as a nuclear state. So Ukraine should first of all decide whether it wants to be a nuclear or nonnuclear power.

I would actually like another hot line to be established, one between President Leonid Kravchuk and the commander of the strategic forces in Ukraine, so that the latter could also take part in making decisions on strategic armaments. As for the complaints of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, I've never made any such promises. We did talk about this but all I promised was to study the problem and report on the results.

Corr.: What do the Ukrainians think of your proposals?

SHAPOSHNIKOV: We informed the Ukrainian President and Defense Minister about them. They accept the proposals on the whole but insist on a stronger prevention mechanism. At the moment we're having discussions with them.

As for Ivan Bizhan's claim that we won't have enough nonnuclear equivalents to replace the nuclear warheads on the same boosters, it's groundless because we have a concrete program which we intend to carry out with the participation of Ukraine and under its control. First of all, we would detarget part of the missiles, remove the warheads from them, take them out of Ukraine and replace them with nonnuclear equivalents.

Then, with the participation of Ukraine and Russia, we would remove the boosters from Ukrainian territory. After that we would do the same with another part of the missiles, and so on. In this way we could solve the

problem completely by the end of 1993 and make Ukraine an entirely nuclear-free state, which is what it wants.

Corr.: Bizhan says this is technically unfeasible.

SHAPOSHNIKOV: No, all of this is feasible. I actually have the impression that the strategic armaments issue became a trump card for the Ukrainian nationalists when confrontation began between Russia and Ukraine over the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet.

Corr.: Is it true that boosters will be dangerous after the nuclear warheads are removed and not replaced with nonnuclear equivalents?

SHAPOSHNIKOV: To some extent it is. There can, for example, be fuel leakages, although there can be no explosions. But boosters are, of course, more dangerous with nuclear warheads than with nonnuclear equivalents.

Corr.: Ukraine has apparently no objection to the detargeting of the missiles. Does that solve most of the problems?

SHAPOSHNIKOV: No. Some independent experts have estimated that a state like Ukraine is able to develop its own targeting system within a few years. So we'll insist on detargeting.

U.S. Pledge on Plutonium Seen as 'Symbolic'

PM1507131192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "G. Bush Proposes Punishing Weapons Traders Together"]

[Text] New York—The United States will no longer produce plutonium or enriched uranium for military purposes. This was announced Monday [13 July] by President George Bush, who stressed that this is one of his administration's measures aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear arms.

According to the President there is still active demand in the world for "nuclear weapons, and new suppliers of key technologies are emerging." Whereas the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals are being reduced, Bush continued, the "spread of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems poses a growing threat to the interests of U.S. national security and world peace."

The initiative announced by the White House is more of a symbolic nature. The United States has not actually produced any plutonium since 1988, as a ranking administration staffer reminded journalists. It has quite enough stocks to last for many decades and even centuries.

Nonetheless, the current initiative is important in that henceforth nonproduction of plutonium will be official U.S. policy and something that, as the State Department explained, "it will not be possible to simply review overnight whenever we see fit."

Other measures aimed at strengthening the nonproliferation regime include some that are dictated by the White House's continuing concern about the "nuclear consequences" of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Although a ranking State Department official expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on these issues with Russia, Kazakhstan, Byelarus, and Ukraine—particularly at the Lisbon talks—the progress has so far been inadequate, in the administration's view.

Hence George Bush's specific proposal to organize controls on exports of weapons and their components which would rule out any situation whereby a "potential customer, having been turned down by one nuclear power, can go to another and get what he wants."

A reliance on multinational efforts is evident in the Bush initiative, which also envisages a collective form of punishment for those who violate the nonproliferation regime. Specifically, Bush is talking about having the UN Security Council impose strict sanctions, including embargoes, on countries which commit particularly serious violations—for instance, those guilty of transfers of technology relating to weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. 'Inconsistent' in Pursuing Nonproliferation

PM1607113792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Manki Ponomarev: "Washington's New Initiative: Beefing Up the Nonproliferation Regime"]

[Text] Ignoring Americans' superstitious prejudices against the number 13 (a prejudice not confined to Americans), President G. Bush made a statement on 13 July which was immediately described as a new initiative. He announced that the United States is discontinuing the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, and he called on other countries to beef up existing measures designed to ensure the nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and conventional types of weapons and the means to deliver them, especially missile hardware and technology.

"Several weeks ago President Boris Yeltsin and I reached agreement on the deepest cuts in nuclear weapons stockpiles since the beginning of the nuclear age," G. Bush said. "However, while our own arsenals are shrinking, the potential for producing or obtaining weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them is growing, which increases the threat to U.S. security and peace on the planet."

As is clear from the statement, Washington intends to play a leading role in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of technologies and weapons that pose a threat to security. The United States will try to get an extension of the number of participants and beef up the main agreements in this field. Among other things, there is a proposal to organize monitoring of the export of weapons and weapon components as such a way as to stop a potential purchaser who had been turned down by

one nuclear power from applying to another and securing what he wanted. It is planned to use collective measures of influence up to and including tough sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against countries that commit the most serious violations.

This is the essence of G. Bush's new initiative. It should be noted that an enormous amount of plutonium and enriched uranium—the basic components of nuclear weapons—has already been accumulated in the world. It has been reported that at the end of the 1980's there were about 100 tonnes of plutonium and 500 tonnes of uranium in Soviet and U.S. warheads. Other countries too possess plutonium and uranium, and moreover not just nuclear countries, since plutonium production takes place at commercial nuclear electric power stations, and methods of eliminating or recycling plutonium remain practically undeveloped at the present time. It is no accident that the United States has stopped producing plutonium for several years now. In Russia too the production of plutonium for military purposes has been drastically cut back and will be halted completely in the near future. So in this sense the U.S. President's statement only elevates what has already been happening in practice to the rank of official policy.

Nevertheless, the measures that are being proposed to beef up the nonproliferation regime should of course be welcomed. But they have been put forward largely because Washington is afraid that those who are striving to bring about the collapse of democracy in Russia and other CIS states are stepping up their actions. The intention is that together with the cuts in U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals, these measures will be one more barrier standing in the way of these forces.

The Washington administration's new initiative looks particularly important against the background of the actions of extreme right-wingers in the United States who are insistently demanding a review of the key provisions of the START Treaty. The White House is striving to get the treaty ratified in the form in which it was signed and is prepared to go further, but in a number of cases it is being inconsistent. Thus, the White House chief has just turned down a proposal to limit the number of U.S. nuclear tests.

Initial responses indicate that Bush's initiative has met with approval in many countries, but now Britain has announced that it will continue to produce plutonium and enriched uranium, which undermines the basic point of this initiative. There are also doubts about the purity of U.S. intentions—either the United States really does intend to accelerate the process of ridding mankind of weapons of mass destruction, or it simply wants to remove potential competitors from the path of its military-industrial complex.

Commentary Addresses U.S. Plutonium Initiative *LD1507201292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 15 Jul 92*

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] This week President Bush has announced his decision to stop producing plutonium and uranium for nuclear explosions. Our commentary is by Vladislav Kozyakov:

The decision has the aim to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which were described as the growing threat to U.S. national security and the whole world. The statement published by the White House justly notes that at the time when Russia and the United States have agreed on historic cuts in nuclear arsenals the potential of other countries to produce and acquire such weapons has been increased, and this may be fraught with dangerous consequences.

The first reaction of Moscow to President Bush's statement was favorable. A representative of the Russian president described the decision as a major initiative which might create conditions favorable for joint action on reducing nuclear weapons.

But many observers believe now that relations of partnership are being consolidated between Russia and the United States they may go still further in such an important sphere as an end to the production of fissionable materials.

Moscow more than once suggested to conclude Russian-American verifiable agreement in this sphere. [sentence as heard] It also suggested that Russia and the United States exchange data on uranium and plutonium inventories and number of warheads.

Such an approach may contribute to solving yet another problem inherited from the cold war. Russian inspectors may verify if the United States has stopped producing uranium and plutonium whereas the American team would control the situation in Russia where uranium is no longer produced and reactors producing plutonium for weapons are being stopped speedily.

Why not to use the principle of trust and verify which has justified itself? A Russian-American agreement could also promote the main goal stipulated in the recent White House statement, that is to ensure the non-proliferation of the mass destruction weapons.

Yet this half measure (of) Washington has not been hailed by some capitals. In London the Foreign Office said that Britain would continue to produce nuclear material at the minimum level necessary for weapons and naval reactors. Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies said Britain and France need plutonium for new generations of submarine-launched nuclear warheads.

It also looks like the recent American initiative to stop the production of uranium and plutonium for weapons does not fully correspond to the most topical task of today which is to stop all the nuclear explosions. Unfortunately Washington has fallen behind other nuclear powers in this sphere. If the United States gave support to the moratorium on nuclear tests, which is observed by Russia and France, it would be a major contribution to curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Arkhangelsk Cleans Up After Submarine Accident

LD1607061392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent V. Loyter, from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Arkhangelsk Oblast, that is a huge megapolis where the most modern means of mass destruction are concentrated ranging from the nuclear testing ground on Novaya Zemlya to modern nuclear submarines and the launching of space rockets. Both the Army and the Navy are trying to help avoid an (?unexpected) cataclysm.

[Begin O. Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet, recording] We are starting major exercises to eliminate the consequences called forth by the accident on the nuclear power installation in the submarine. Major forces of the chemical service of the Northern Fleet, of the Moscow military district, and forces from the local civil defense are involved in this exercise. We regard this exercise as extremely pressing in connection with those events which you know took place at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. [end recording]

A new nuclear submarine is leaving the slips of the Severnyy machine building enterprise and one is very anxious that a tragedy like that of the Komsomolets should not occur again and that these hose pipes should only be used in exercises.

French Nuclear Experts Visit Balakovo AES

OW1007065592 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 1 Jul 92

[Report by O. Shommer from the Balakovo nuclear electric power station; from the "Utro" program—recorded]

[Text] The anarchists, having announced their intention to picket the Balakovo AES [nuclear electric power station] as well as other nuclear electric power stations of the Commonwealth, have failed to carry out their threat. Instead of anarchists, however, the French, who were expected and whom we are always happy to see, have arrived here. [video shows people getting off a bus and a news conference.]

Members of the delegation—managers and specialists from the (Pelieu) station—following a week of discussions with their colleagues, held a news conference and shared with journalists a number of interesting reports and perceptions. Specifically, they said the rumors of huge chickens capable of pecking people to death in the nearby village of Natalyeno have not been substantiated. Among other highlights, they mentioned the activeness of local inhabitants continually demanding environmental tests on power generating units currently operating, as well as tests on those still under construction. [video shows reactor complex, power lines.]

Also, here is some happy news! The so-called environmental substantiation document for the No. 4 Millionnik generating unit, where precommissioning work is now under way, has been handed over to the city administration to be reviewed with the people. Their voice must be heard. As the French say: C'est la vie. A new long-term agreement must be concluded with their partners. Also, as to the question of prospects for such collaboration, Mr. Berte, the director of the (Pelieu) power station, simply replied:

[Begin Berte recording in French, fading into Russian translation] We will come again. [end recording]

Thus, Pavel Leonidovich Ipatov, director of the Balakovo AES, is convinced that there is nothing to worry about.

[Begin Ipatov recording] I can simply say that this will only reflect positively on the work at the Balakovo power station and on its safety. [end recording]

EEC 'Expert Service' Program Gets Under Way

PM1507093792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Aleksey Portanskiy: "CIS Leaders Gain Access to EC Expert Services"]

[Text] In the past the Soviet Union used to be the world leader when it came to numbers of ministries. One thing we seemed to have in abundance was administrative experience. This may be so, but it is this very bureaucratic management experience built up by the administrative-edict system that we now need to eschew. The EC is prepared to help us solve this difficult task.

The "European Expert Service" program—a major project to provide technical cooperation from the EC countries to the CIS republics and Georgia—started operating in Russia in June. The 9 million Ecus [European currency units] freely allocated in year one of the program should ensure access for the CIS countries' leading components to the top-notch expert services available within the EC. Those determining the political setup and economic policy in the newly independent states which have emerged in place of the former USSR will be able to avail themselves of EC support in areas

such as reform of government ministries, budget formation, industrial strategy, etc.

"This is the kind of service that the CIS republics really need just now," D. Wilkes, one of the project leaders, told journalists. "Expert services in the sphere of inter-governmental relations, trade, and mutual payments will be particularly important."

The speed, flexibility, and effectiveness of consultations and services should be the mark of the service's work, Neil Perison, a program representative who has just opened an office in Moscow, believes. In the near future similar offices will be opened in Kiev and, clearly, in Alma-Ata and Minsk too.

An international consortium has been set up on a competitive basis to implement the "European Expert Service" program. It is headed by Coopers & Lybrand and includes the Bayerische Vereinsbank (Germany) and Rothschild & Sons Ltd. (Britain). Other European companies could be involved in the program too.

The Commission of the European Communities has deliberately chosen a contract with a private firm to implement the project, because this virtually rules out the possibility of any political influence from the EC.

The "European Expert Service" program is an unknown and hitherto unusual undertaking for our leaders. That is why it is important that the new political establishment in Russia and the other CIS republics realize that the program exists and that its services can be used at any time.

Plan Sees Delay in Destroying Chemical Weapons

PM1207145592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 10 Jul 92 p 3

[Article by Major M. Zhiglov: "Russia Will Definitely Destroy Its Chemical Weapons. But Not Just Yet"]

[Text] Work on the draft Convention on the Total Prohibition and Elimination of Chemical Weapons has ended at the Geneva Disarmament Conference. According to preliminary assessments, it will be signed by the European countries, the United States, Canada, Japan, and many African, Asian, and Latin American states no later than the start of next year. The signatories will undoubtedly include the Russian Federation, the possessor of the largest stocks of this type of weapon of mass destruction today. Furthermore, Russia, as legal successor to the former Union, must begin the destruction process no later than 31 December 1992. That is enshrined in the Soviet-U.S. agreement signed two years ago, but it will not begin by then.

According to Anatoliy Kuntsevich, chairman of the Russian President's Committee on the Conventional [konventsionalnyy] Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons, this is because before this year we had no organ with responsibility at state level for preparing for

the destruction of chemical weapons. The Defense Ministry, the Chemical Industry Ministry, and a number of others prepared a full-scale state program for their elimination. The program was sent to the Union Supreme Soviet and a report was sent to the USSR president. For a whole series of objective and subjective reasons the program was not approved and the resources were consequently not allocated. So there is no question of its implementation today.

After the USSR ceased to exist the question of the legal responsibility for chemical weapons arose. On 19 February 1992 the Russian president issued a decree to resolve this problem by setting up the Committee for Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Its formation, incidentally, in practice marked the completion of the creation of the system of presidential control of all types of weapons of mass destruction. The new organ immediately began to elaborate a new concept for the destruction of chemical weapons.

The concept's fundamental difference is that Russia cannot and will not embark immediately on a large-scale program for the elimination of chemical weapons. We will move toward that in stages, as Anatoliy Kuntsevich stressed, by creating a structure of installations which would not be such a burden to the Russian economy. Specialists believe that some of the resources thus expended could be recouped.

Efforts, of course, will be concentrated on ensuring that the reaction products [reaktsionnyye massy] produced as a result of neutralizing the toxic substances involved will not be incinerated but will be used to resolve a number of technical tasks linked to the creation of solutions with a whole series of complex characteristics—fireproofing, antiseptic, and anticorrosion characteristics. There are other, larger projects for the recycling of, for example, lewisite which will help to provide our microelectronics industry with raw materials for at least 15 years.

During the first stage the plan is to convert several chemical-weapons production enterprises to chemical weapons destruction. On the one hand, these installations are ready right now and their upkeep will not require additional spending. On the other hand, a high degree of safety is guaranteed there, everything has been checked out in real-life conditions. At the same time a mobile complex will operate which, when necessary, will make it possible to increase the amount of chemical weapons being destroyed. Finally, as part of the first stage a center is being created to ensure monitoring, including at international level, of the process of the elimination of toxic substances.

Incidentally, we will not only be monitored but given certain assistance within the framework of cooperation. It is planned, for example, that U.S. specialists will take part in devising the best techniques for the destruction of chemical weapons. They will support those techniques

with more productive and reliable systems, more hermetically sealed and protected equipment, and automation and control systems.

If everything goes off without a hitch, that is, if the plan for the destruction of chemical weapons is adopted by all the interested sides and, most important, is financed, the first tonnes of chemical toxins should be destroyed by the end of 1993 or early 1994. Accordingly the timetable for the final elimination has been put back some years. However, this should not be seen as a major tragedy. People abroad understand perfectly well all the complexities of the present economic situation in Russia. They can see that our specialists are working on real preparation for the destruction of this type of weapon of mass destruction.

It is highly likely that the problems involved in the implementation of the program for the elimination of 40,000 tonnes of chemical toxins will occur not so much abroad or in the economic sphere as in people's minds. People still remember the events at the installation in Chapayevsk, where the local authorities and the public stopped it from functioning. This factor is taken into account in the elaboration of the new program for the destruction of chemical weapons.

Its implementation is dependent on the commitment of the local authorities and the population. This commitment takes the following form: In zones where fixed or mobile chemical weapons destruction complexes are to operate, citizens and property must be given guarantees of insurance, effective medical monitoring and support must be provided, and systems and centers must be set up to keep the population informed. Improvements to the social infrastructure of these regions are also envisaged. In this regard it is planned that investments in the interests of the local organs of power will amount to 30 percent of the total investment in the program. The interests of those participating in the elimination of the chemical toxins have not been forgotten either. Plans for them include quite high wages, the solution of the housing problem, etc.

These measures, combined with safety guarantees and an extensive information campaign, should help to alleviate the population's psychological stress, and the implementation of the program will begin on time, especially since the Americans have evacuated their own chemical weapons right across Europe and the Atlantic without incident and are destroying them safely.

CW Dump Poses Dilemma

PM1607141392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 2

[Article by I. Rudnikov: "Where Are the Wehrmacht's Chemical Munitions?"]

[Text] Some 17 underground storage facilities "inherited" from the German Army in 1945 are located on the territory of the Baltic Fleet arsenal. There are 100-150

carloads of different munitions there. Their condition is frightening. The question of clearing the storage facilities and moving the captured munitions further away from the city is not on the agenda. The conclusions reached by all the special commissions over the past 40-odd years have been unambiguous: It is better not to touch the storage facilities at all because they could "blow up" at any time.

The consequences of such an explosion are hard to calculate. The Baltic Fleet Headquarters is not ruling out the possibility that a large proportion of the Wehrmacht's chemical weapons—which are still being sought for some reason on the floor of the Baltic—are located there.

This version is backed up by the following fact. In the spring of 1945, when the East Prussia Operation was under way and the attacking Soviet forces were not giving the Germans time to evacuate, an order was sent from Berlin to destroy all weapons dumps. All storage facilities on the territory of this German arsenal—apart from the 17 underground—were blown up. There Hitlerites only blew up the above-ground buildings and the entrances to them. On the basis of the theory that chemical weapons were present, this would have been logical.

Better Use of Nuclear Institute Urged

PM1407102592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 11 Jul 92 First Edition p 4

[Report on interview with Vladimir Aleksandrovich Belugin, director of the All-Russian Experimental Physics Scientific Research Institute, by Vladimir Gubarev, head of the "Nekos" scientific journalism workshop, under the rubric "Familiarization"; place and date not given: "Balls of Fire"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We had a long, detailed discussion with Vladimir Aleksandrovich Belugin, director of the All-Russian Experimental Physics Scientific Research Institute; I hope to talk about it in greater detail in the future. We also talked about the center's future, the position of its specialists, nuclear weapons, and Belugin's life. One of my questions was:

"Are you particularly proud of anything as director?"

"Above all, of our people," he replied. "And, naturally, of our traditions. They were created by hundreds of people and built up over decades. Our sphere was created relatively recently—it is one of the youngest. From the very outset, it was instilled in everyone that they are doing very serious, very necessary, and very dangerous work, without which the country cannot exist. A sense of great responsibility has been instilled in people. We were recently visited by the vice governor, who was familiarizing himself with conversion. He inquired how we could help the Volga region. We showed him our work for copper smelting combines. Using our methods we are reducing electricity consumption severalfold—the quality is incomparable and the

work is high-speed. We are doing all this with the help of explosives; after all, we have great experience in working with conventional explosives. We blow up 18 sites [tochki] at once and then pulverize [shtampovat] the material. The vice governor watched, and then started asking questions such as, why are there so many instructions, and couldn't they be reduced? We replied that our tradition is to think through any situation, including the most unlikely scenario. Unfortunately, our traditions of responsibility and a serious attitude to our work and to danger could be ending because the two or three generations which initiated and developed nuclear weapons are quietly leaving the scene, and we have virtually no young people. Whereas in better times we used to receive 500, 600, or even 800 young specialists at a time from the best institutes, nowadays we are simply not getting them since there is no housing or pay. The old timers are leaving, traditions are breaking down, and everything is coming to an end. There will be a material base, fine installations, and no specialists. It is unusually important to preserve our traditions."

The director's emotional monologue conceals one of the most acute problems facing the Russian Federal Nuclear Center. No, not the fate of the institute itself, but the fate of nuclear weapons. We discussed this with various people, including the "think tank"—I am referring to the All-Russian Experimental Physics Scientific Research Institute's scientific leaders (Academicians Khariton, Trutnev, Pavlovskiy, Negin, Chief Designers Voronin and Romanov, and many others).

"We need certainty!"—that was the main conclusion.

There is no Russian military doctrine and no state program for nuclear weapons, therefore people do not know what their future will be and have no confidence in it. Moreover, some of the decisions directly concerning them are being made unexpectedly and have only been learned about from the radio. During the perestroika years it was traditional to talk a great deal about nuclear disarmament, put forward new doctrines, and hold conferences and congresses. M. Gorbachev—and later B. Yeltsin, L. Kravchuk, and N. Nazarbayev—had so many nuclear weapons advisers that you could only wonder where they all came from, and the presidents were inundated with proposals that were outwardly so alluring that it was hard to resist—this is why so many absurd

mistakes were made over the past six years (mistakes which should make us blush, because they were most often impracticable, if only for technical reasons). Neither the former president nor the current presidents have anyone in their entourage who knows about nuclear weapons, and most of their advisers have never seen a nuclear bomb first hand. All the sensible initiatives—I would stress, all—came out of Arzamas-16. This is true of the sharp reduction in testing, the increased safety of the weapons, the elimination of certain types, and finally, the fate of tactical nuclear weapons. However many people, in their quest for popularity, may try to take credit for certain disarmament ideas while accusing the "bomb makers" of being "hawks," they will not achieve anything useful because without Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70 there can be no question of any disarmament! The world's security depends primarily on the scientists and specialists at these centers and on their work—not in the potato fields but in laboratories.

The Federal Nuclear Center has built up a vast amount of scientific potential, and it can and should be used not only, or even not so much, to develop weapons but for practical purposes in all sectors of industry, science, and in our life.

"We have unique installations, including laser and plasma installations, and so forth," V. Belugin said. "We are wondering how to make the most effective use of them in various spheres. We have the 'Iskra-5' laser. The Americans have a more powerful laser. I have visited their installation and looked it over. I must say that their engineers are poorer than ours. Their installation is very cumbersome, it is only three times more powerful, and it costs 100 times more! There are sectors where we are far ahead. Here is another example—we have set about intensifying oil extraction. The Americans spend huge amounts simply on experimental work whereas we are already able to loosen rock at depths of up to 200 meters using shaped [kommulyativnyy] charges. This makes it possible to improve oil extraction threefold. Wells are currently extracting 30-40 percent of reserves, but we can offer 90 percent! We have done the experiments and reached the conclusion that our methods are several hundred times cheaper than U.S. methods, but are the American methods preferred? In general, the Russian Federal Nuclear Center has amassed a huge intellectual potential—it should be extensively and sensibly utilized."

Foreign, Defense Ministers Meet in Tashkent

Discuss 'Collective Forces'

LD1607154392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT
16 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Representatives of Commonwealth countries have assembled in Tashkent for a new meeting on preparations for a forthcoming summit. The main topic of the discussion was the question of creating multinational collective forces to maintain peace in crisis regions of the Commonwealth.

Plenipotentiary representatives of 11 Commonwealth states are taking part in today's conference, and the first point on the conference agenda, on which Marshal Shaposhnikov spoke, is the introduction of collective forces to maintain peace to zones of interethnic conflicts in CIS states. [Video shows conference in progress.]

No less important among the questions considered today was the preparation of a draft agreement on establishing the rights of persons belonging to deported peoples, and the rights of national minorities. The conference worked out draft rules of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

On a proposal from Uzbek President Islam Karimov, a topical question was included in the conference agenda on the preservation and reliability of the southern borders of the Commonwealth which, unfortunately, are today causing concern and not only among politicians and inhabitants of the Central Asian republics.

The question of the southern borders was included in the agenda at the last moment and, it seems, this is of special significance first and foremost for Tajikistan, something recalled by yesterday's visit by a Tajik delegation to neighboring Afghanistan. Representatives of the delegation stated that the Afghan authorities promised them that the movement of weapons across the border into Tajikistan will not be permitted. This is a very topical problem for the Tajik republic.

Agree on 'Peacekeeping Forces'

LD1607151792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1433 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tashkent, 16 Jul (TASS)—A protocol on temporary procedures for forming groups of military observers and collective peacekeeping forces in conflict zones between states and in the CIS member states was signed at the conference of foreign and defense ministers and the command of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, which closed here today. All the CIS member states were represented at the conference.

A statement of the CIS on international obligations in the sphere of human rights and basic freedoms, as well as a communique on the foreign ministers conference in Tashkent, were also adopted.

Achieve 'Important Victory'

LD1607160692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1440 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] [Aleksandr Ruvinskiy] On the line with our Panorama studio is Tashkent. A conference of heads of foreign political and military departments of the CIS countries took place there today. We will get the details from our correspondent Irkin Rakhimov.

[Rakhimov] Greetings, Aleksandr Ilyich!

[Ruvinskiy] We can hear you, thanks, good day!

[Rakhimov] I can say without exaggeration that the participants in today's conference in Tashkent discussed the most painful questions of our lives. These were, first and foremost, measures to keep the peace in conflict zones. If you recall, this question was raised at the last Moscow meeting of CIS heads of state by Uzbek President Islam Karimov and was supported by the majority of leaders. Well, now the ministers had to work out a specific mechanism for creating collective forces.

The discussion of this question, according to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, was held in a constructive atmosphere. The ministers unanimously expressed an understanding of all the complexities of the problem, and this gave the Russian minister the right to tell journalists about an important victory for the party of peace.

Replying to a correspondent's question as to whether peace-making forces would be sent into the Karabakh region, Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, replied bluntly that there is no such possibility today. For collective forces of the CIS to be able to enter a conflict zone, the minimum requirement would be the goodwill of the conflicting sides and a cease-fire there, but the warring sides are still refusing to listen to the voice of wisdom.

[Ruvinskiy] Irkin (?Abdullayevich), the ministers were due to examine the so-called border question today.

[Rakhimov] Correct, Aleksandr Ilyich. This question was indeed on the agenda. More than that, at the request of Uzbek President Islam Karimov the conference also discussed the question of the state and reliability of the protection of the southern borders of the former Union.

Commenting on this, Marshal Shaposhnikov noted in particular that in principle, the protection of borders is the affair of the sovereign states themselves, but today the reality is such that without Russia's assistance, the people of the south will not cope. A particularly difficult situation, as we know, has developed today on the Tajik

section of the border. Taking this into account, it was decided to send an additional 1,200 troops there.

At the same time, the marshal rejected stories put out by individual politicians who are claiming that Russia is assuming the role of a gendarme. All actions connected with setting up peace-making forces, as well as protecting Russia's borders, are being taken by Russia with exclusively good intentions, and—not unimportantly—with the consent of all parties, the marshal said.

In all, as reported this evening at the news conference, the conference discussed seven questions. It did not reach agreement on all of them. Unfortunately, the question of the fate of the deported ethnic minorities once again remained unresolved.

In conclusion, I would like to say that not all the states of the CIS were represented at Tashkent by their top leaders. Turkmenistan did not even send a plenipotentiary representative. Those are the results of our conference in Tashkent.

[Ruvinskiy] I thank Irkin Rakhimov for that report.

Agree on Draft Accord

LD1607154992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has said that all the necessary preparations are over for the establishment of the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In his opinion the draft agreement worked out at the meeting in Tashkent of the foreign and defense ministers of the Commonwealth member countries grants equal rights to all its participants, meets the highest international standards, and pinches [as heard] no one's sovereignty in the Commonwealth.

The peacekeeping forces personnel will be recruited on a voluntary basis and will consist of units from all the Commonwealth member states. The numerical strength of the units shall be in direct ratio to the number of their national armed forces personnel. The Commonwealth peacekeeping force is supposed to be used first of all in the war torn Trans-Dniester Region.

Meeting Ends 16 Jul

LD1607171792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1607 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tashkent, 16 Jul—The conference of foreign and defense ministers and the command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces to prepare proposals for using collective peacekeeping forces in conflict zones ended today in Tashkent. Russia's delegation was led by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The participants at the conference passed a protocol on a temporary procedure for forming and introducing groups of military observers and collective peacekeeping forces in zones of conflict between and within member states of the CIS. They also adopted a statement by the CIS foreign ministers on international obligations in the sphere of human rights and basic liberties and a communique of the conference of CIS foreign ministers in Tashkent.

The protocol says that the principled political decision to mount an operation using peacekeeping groups is to be taken by the CIS Council Heads of State by consensus, on the basis of an application by one or several member states of the Commonwealth, and with the consent of all the parties to a conflict. The CIS Council of Heads of State must immediately notify the UN Security Council and the current chairman of the CSCE of a decision to mount such an operation. The mandate for such an operation is to be endorsed by the CIS Council of Heads of State following a proposal by the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers or their empowered representatives. The peacekeeping group may be entrusted with various tasks, including observing the fulfillment of truce or cease-fire conditions, demarcation of zones of responsibility, separation of warring factions, setting up demilitarized zones, separation zones, or humanitarian corridors, and also the creation of conditions for talks or other measures aimed at a peaceful settlement of a conflict and the restoration of law and order. During an operation, the communique notes, the peacekeeping group must not take part in military action [boyevyye deystviya], but must use mainly peaceful means and methods for settling a conflict.

Meeting Results Summarized

LD1607204692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report by correspondents M. Ganiyev and Sh. Ganiyeva on news conference held by participants of CIS foreign and defense ministers' meeting in Tashkent; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Ganiyev] At the end of the day, the heads of foreign policy and military departments of the CIS summarized the results of the Tashkent meeting at a news conference. The decision on the allocation by Russia of an additional military contingent to protect the border with Afghanistan was a real step forward in ensuring the collective security of the CIS. It has been proposed to the Central Asian republics that they supplement the border troops with national formations.

On the proposal of the Ukrainian delegation, the discussion of a draft document on restoring the rights of deported peoples was deferred.

[Ganiyeva] The whole package of documents prepared for today will be finally adopted on 25 September in Bishkek at the summit of CIS heads of state. In response

to our question on whether time would not be lost in putting peacekeeping forces into zones of interethnic conflicts where blood is being shed, Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the CIS working group, said that the working group has the power to introduce such forces on the request of the conflicting sides.

Apart from the issues included in the agenda, a statement was adopted on mutual obligations within the CIS in the sphere of human rights and freedoms, as well as an appeal to the Government of Afghanistan on the return of prisoners of war, former Soviet soldiers who took part in the Afghan war. [video shows Shaposhnikov, Kozyrev, and others speaking at news conference.]

Accord Signing Planned

OW1607200792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on results of the foreign and defense ministers' meeting in Tashkent of July 16, the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that the CIS leaders are planning to sign an accord on setting up CIS peacekeeping forces within a week. A coordinator of the CIS heads-of-states and heads-of-governments councils working group will visit all the member-states and collect signatures needed. Kozyrev emphasized the fact that one more effective and flexible body was set up within the framework of the CIS. He hopes that the peacekeeping forces will start operating before the summit in Bishkek where the CIS leaders are expected to address a package of agreements discussed in Tashkent by foreign and defense ministers.

Andrey Kozyrev noted the import of the human rights issues. "We are worried by the problem of Russian nationals and Russian-speaking population in the break-away republics", said the minister. He pointed to the importance of Russia's immediate acceding to the international conventions on the human rights. If they are carefully implemented, he thinks, "everyone will feel at home throughout the CIS".

Commenting on the meeting in Tashkent, Andrey Kozyrev said that it was conducted "in the atmosphere of the positive changes envisaged at the recent CIS summits. It would be a mistake to think that all of our issues have been resolved, but there certainly is an apparent desire to settle them jointly".

"I think the CIS is becoming more efficient", said Kozyrev. He added that now, when the peak of republics' secession from the former Soviet Union is over, and their reverse movement began, "which we counted on". [sentence as received]

Commander Not Yet Appointed

LD1607221592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 2010 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The foreign and defense ministers of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and commanders of the CIS Joint Armed Forces have drafted proposals on using collective peacekeeping forces in zones of conflict. [passage omitted]

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Marshal Shaposhnikov has said that a commander of the collective forces has not been appointed yet. The conference did not set such a goal. In keeping with (?an) agreement, once the CIS presidents decide to form such forces a commander will be appointed in one region or another, depending on the situation.

As for the arms of collective troops, Marshal Shaposhnikov continued, each CIS member country will decide on the matter independently. Naturally the CIS Joint Forces Command will provide essential consultative and other assistance to this effect.

To protect frontiers, Marshal Shaposhnikov continued, is the task of each sovereign state. On the other hand, he noted that a little time has passed since the formation of the independent states of the Commonwealth, and many of them have been unable to form appropriate forces and mechanisms to solve the problem yet. As an example, he cited Tajikistan's request to Russia to provide military assistance to safeguard its frontiers.

Kozyrev, Tajik Minister Meet

LD1607124992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1210 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tashkent July 16 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Tajik counterpart Khudoyberdy Khaliknazarov have confirmed the interest of both sides in working towards normalisation of the situation in Tajikistan, strengthening security, stability and mutual trust in the region.

The meeting took place in Tashkent on Thursday [16 July]. The meeting marked a continuation of an exchange of views on matters related to development of bilateral cooperation in political, economic and military fields.

Reportage on Sevastopol Situation, Fleet Talks

Food Deliveries Banned

LD1407195192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in English 0000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The marines of the Black Sea Fleet continue to hold the military commandant's office of the Sevastopol garrison. It was seized by them during the evening of 10 July upon the orders of the fleet commander, Adml. Igor Kasatonov.

Today the press center of the naval forces of Ukraine reported on another order issued by Kasatonov. He forbid the delivery of food to the premises of the commandant's office. This created a serious obstacle for the normal functioning of its staff. As a sign of protest a hunger strike was announced by the military commandant of Sevastopol, Lt.-Col. (?Volodymyr Sedev), and representative of the naval forces of Ukraine, Col. (?Volodymyr Indilor). The seizure of the commandant's office in Sevastopol is being assessed by many Ukrainian servicemen as a direct action of the Black Sea Fleet Command against the oath of allegiance taken by the staff of the commandant's office to the people of Ukraine.

Ukraine, Russia Hold Talks

OW1607114292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1030 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Military delegations from Russia and Ukraine began negotiations behind closed doors in Sevastopol on Wednesday [15 July] to decide the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. As INTERFAX has learned, on the first day of their work, the negotiators specified their positions. The Ukrainian military delegation is led by Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Lopata, a deputy defence minister. The Russian military delegation is headed by the rear-admiral Ivan Semenov.

Taking part on the Ukrainian side were also the law-makers Aleksandr Tarasenko and Bogdan Goryn, who are members of the state delegation of Ukraine at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet.

Dagomys Agreement Discussed

LD1607152892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1215 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Problems on control over the fulfilment of the Dagomys Agreement on the Black Sea Fleet are discussed by the Russian-Ukrainian Commission that arrived in Sevastopol on Wednesday [15 July], the main base of the fleet. ITAR-TASS was told by phone from the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet that the meeting of parliamentarians and the military is held at the City House of Officers behind closed doors.

The commission comprises representatives of parliament and Defense Ministries of Russia and Ukraine. The Russian delegation is led by member of the Committee for Foreign Economic Ties of the Supreme Soviet Yevgeniy Pudovkin, the Ukrainian delegation by Secretary of the Permanent Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic Aleksandr Tarasenko and Chief Consultant of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Colonel Vitaliy Lazorkin.

A spokesman of the press-centre said that the Ukrainian delegation stated the need to preserve a moratorium on unilateral actions of the sides with regard to the Black Sea Fleet. As was reported, the agreement on that score was reached in the end of last year at a meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk in Dagomys.

However, over the past week the Ukrainian side attempted to violate the Dagomys Agreements on many occasions. Particularly, this found reflection in the "Ukrainisation" of the Fleet—swearing allegiance to Ukraine, "privatising" the Fleet's property, interfering by the military leaders of Ukraine in the day-to-day running of the Navy.

Russian Side Proposes Divisions

LD1607182992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol, 16 Jul—According to the press service of the organizing group of the Ukrainian Navy, the first round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian groups of experts on implementing agreements reached in Dagomys on the division of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) has finished in Sevastopol.

During the discussion it was discovered that the Russian side considers the Black Sea Fleet separately from the former USSR Navy and proposes to divide it in the following ratio: 60 percent to Russia and 40 percent to Ukraine. The Ukrainian side sees the BSF as part of the fleet of the former USSR and claims its right to the BSF units deployed in Ukrainian ports.

The Ukrainian side stressed to the Russian delegation that the Black Sea Fleet base situated in Ukraine may be used by Russia only on a contractual basis. Therefore, the Ukrainian experts proposed that examination begin of the utilization of the forces afloat without raising the problem of the basing and on-shore units of the fleet deployed in Ukraine as well.

No specific accords were reached as a result of work by the expert groups. The sides agreed to continue the talks.

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Moscow, 16 Jul—Aleksy Tabachnikov, ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent—The next round of Russian-Ukrainian talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet will be held in Moscow on 18 July. This was stated in an interview with news agencies by Fleet Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Hold Discussion

OW1607203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a telephone conversation Wednesday [15 July] Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin spoke in favour of the moratorium being completely maintained and Ukrainian and Russian delegations meeting more frequently to decide the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. This was reported to a session of the Sevastopol city council by its chairman, Vladimir Semenov.

Semenov quoted President Kravchuk, who having gone to the Crimea for vacation, made a stop at the Belbek airport near Sevastopol. According to Semenov, President Kravchuk declared that he and the Russian president had already given the appropriate instructions to the defense ministers of their countries.

Negotiations To Continue 18 Jul

OW1607203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations is scheduled for the next Saturday [18 July] in Moscow, the expert of Russian delegation, Navy commander, deputy commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Admiral Vladimir Chernavin told "IF" [INTERFAX]. According to Chernavin, during a telephone talk of the deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuri Yarov heading the Russian delegation with the head of the Ukrainian delegation first deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet Vasilii Durdinets they managed to reach a settlement on the next round of the negotiations.

Thursday Chernavin participated in a working session of the Russian delegation headed by Yuri Yarov.

There were already two rounds of negotiations of the state delegations on the Black Sea Fleet—in Odessa and Sevastopol. During their recent meeting in Dagomys Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk agreed in principal on dividing the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine.

Unofficial sources told "IF" that the Ukrainian party insists on retaining not less than 60% of the Fleet's property mentioning that the Black Sea Fleet will defend the strategic interests of seven CIS states which had signed a Treaty on collective security. At first Russia proposed to grant to Ukraine more that 20% of the Fleet's property but in the course of the negotiations it has changed its position and agrees to give 40% of the Black Sea Fleet's property to Ukraine. The source of this information does not exclude further correction of parties' positions.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jul

LD1707052792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0506 GMT 17 Jul 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 17 (ITAR-TASS)—The today's press gives wide coverage to the debate over the tax policy in the Russian parliament, which "became the subject of confrontation between the government and parliament." According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the discussion was especially acute over the value added tax. "Legislators believe that it is this tax that brought about the soaring of prices and recession in the sphere of production. This is why they would like to reduce the value added tax by half," the newspaper writes.

The tax was reduced to 20 per cent, which is less than the reduction proposed by parliament, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out. The newspaper believes the government had to exert much effort for persuading legislators to agree to a compromise. "In the situation in which the government and parliament could not work out a mutually acceptable solution, despite numerous consultations, one could describe this result as a compromise, advantageous for the government," the newspaper writes.

Newspapers also highlight the situation in the hotbeds of tension and conflict situations in various parts of the new commonwealth. They report the beginning of an operation for the disengagement of warring parties in South Ossetia by moving there a multilateral peace-keeping military contingent. "Tskhinvali women were crying, when Russian paratroopers were entering the city," a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent writes, describing the arrival in Tskhinvali, administrative centre of South Ossetia, of the paratrooper regiment belonging to the Russian part of the peace-keeping force. "City dwellers celebrated the first night after the arrival of Russian paratroopers, as though it were a holiday. They left basements, which almost became their homes, and, for once, they were not afraid of shelling and snipers." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a similar report of its correspondent: "In cities and villages people took to the streets to meet the military column. They did not conceal their joy about the arrival of the peace-keeping force. Some people, however, met us with apprehension."

According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, armistice is not observed in the Dniester region. "Despite the ceasefire order, shooting can be heard, missiles explode and people die in the Dniester region almost every night. The two sides supply conflicting information about the situation and accuse each other of violating the armistice," the newspaper writes.

Armenia is changing its policy with regard to the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh within the CSCE framework, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. The absence of an Armenian delegation at the meeting in Rome for preparing the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh is an "indication that foreign political

approaches of Armenia to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict may be changed," the newspaper stresses. By all appearances, "Armenian diplomats will concentrate their efforts on transferring the discussion of the problem from the CSCE to the UN framework."

Vasiliy Lipnitskiy, chairman of the board of the people's party "Free Russia," has contributed an article to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, which deals with the programme and goals of the recently created centrist coalition "Civil Union" which rallies significant political forces—parties, industrial managers and legislators. "We are ready to present to society a team capable of pursuing the economic, foreign and domestic policy," Lapitsky said. According to the newspaper, the coalition worked out its own programme of the "alternative economic policy", which envisages the creation of "the economy regulated by the state, orientated towards a large-scale arms manufacturing industry on the territory of the former USSR."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA cites the words of Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, Russian deputy defence minister, which deal with problems of European security and disarmament. Speaking in parliament during the discussion of that problem, he said that the Treaty on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was signed in Paris, opens up new prospects for the creation of the European security system. According to Mironov, the reduction of the level of military potentials on the European continent is one of the main objectives of the treaty. Mironov stressed that the treaty is one of the main factors influencing the formation of the Russian Armed Forces.

INTERFAX 'Trade & Investment' News

OW1707032492

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERFAX in English, as received via Tokyo KYODO, at 1608 GMT on 16 July transmits its 17 July "Trade & Investment" feature. Within the "Headline News" section of the weekly feature, INTERFAX carries 13 reports, the highlights of which include the following:

Under the headline "Russian Parliament Reviews Personal Income Tax Rates," INTERFAX runs a 250-word report on the Supreme Soviet's approval of legal provisions that revise the nation's tax system. The report says the revisions, which were adopted 10 July, exclude changes affecting the value-added tax (VAT). According to INTERFAX, changes in the VAT will be debated later "with participation of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar."

The report adds that the Supreme Soviet also has created a commission to work out differences that have emerged between the Yeltsin government and the parliament on the issue of VAT taxation. INTERFAX says: "The government insists on continuing to levy VAT at the rate of 28%, while a parliamentary commission has suggested that the rate of the tax should be reduced to 14% and that

the loss of budget revenues be offset by applying VAT and excise taxes to imported goods."

The report goes on to cite an interview with Sergey Shatalov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet's taxation subpanel. According to the report, Shatalov says changes in the tax system proposed by the Supreme Soviet will, "according to very conservative estimates," reduce budgetary revenues by about 500 billion rubles (Rb) a year. Shatalov also told INTERFAX that "the most important changes" in the tax system are linked to a "more lenient taxation of personal incomes." According to Shatalov, "The lowest rate of the personal income tax (12%) will now apply to incomes of up to Rb200,000 a year. The highest rate of the tax will be reduced by 20 percentage points to 40% and will apply to incomes in excess of Rb600,000 a year, rather than Rb420,000 a year."

Also included in the 17 July "Trade & Investment" feature is a 150-word report on Russian Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha's appointment as chairman of the Export Control Commission. A presidential decree dated 7 July assigned Ghizha to the post which had previously been held by acting Premier Gaidar. Although the decree does not give any reason for Khizha's appointment, INTERFAX reports that "experts say this has been due primarily to Mr. Gaidar's promotion," adding that Ghizha "was seen as an appropriate candidate for the job because of his extensive experience in the defence industry."

According to INTERFAX, the Export Control Commission "will have the task of devising a system of controls over the export activities of (primarily) defence enterprises undergoing conversion, that would both safeguard the interests of the state and ensure compliance with international commitments related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Another report in the "Trade & Investment" feature covers the Russian Government's approval of a list of territories in which foreigners will have only limited access. According to this 80-word report, an ordinance signed by Gaidar "requests that organizations which organize visits by foreigners in these territories should agree their plans with Russia's Security Ministry and its regional agencies." The report adds: "The Committee for Geodesics and Cartography has been instructed to publish maps of the Russian Federation within six months' time, which would show its administrative divisions, and designate territories with restricted access for foreigners and identify highways for transit travel through these territories."

Later in the "Headline News" section of the weekly feature, INTERFAX reports the Russian Government has approved a list of equipment to be purchased under \$84.14 million worth of investment credits provided by Canada. According to the report, Russian enterprises intend to use the credits to import Canadian equipment such as "oil and gas well repair rigs, oilfield equipment, as well as equipment to manufacture fiber-optic products

and infusion mixtures in plastic recipients." The report adds: "Russian customers consist of the corporation Rosneftegaz, the concern Biopreparat and research and production association Kompozit, which are planning to import respectively \$54.2m (million), \$8.94m and \$21m worth of equipment."

In another item dealing with Russia, INTERFAX carries a 100-word report on debts owed by Russian oil-producing enterprises. This report says the hard-currency debts of oil-producing enterprise groups amounted to \$143.8 million in 1991. The report also gives the following breakdown of debts owed by individual enterprise groups: "The Tatneft Group owed \$18.1 m., the Yuganskneftegaz Group—\$14.8 m., the Nizhnevartovskneftegaz Group—\$13.8 m., the Surgutneftegaz Group—\$13.7 m., and Bashneft—\$7.8 m. Other groups like Surgutneftegaz, Nizhnevartovskneftegaz,

Noyabrskneftegaz and Krasnoleninskneftegaz did not even pay their transportation costs in 1991."

Also carried in the latest "Trade & Investment" feature is an 80-word report on Armenia's introduction of a single procedure for licensing exports. According to INTERFAX, the new procedure, which was introduced on 14 July, requires export licenses for the following goods: "non-ferrous metals and ores, berlite, red tufa, granite, marble, brandy, textile products, natural and artificial precious stones, jewelry, synthetic corundum, scrap of valuable metals, medicines, and wild animals and plants registered in the Red Book of Armenia." This report goes on to say that the licensing requirement also applies to foreign firms and joint ventures operating in the republic, adding that exports of ammunition, military hardware, explosives, radioactive materials, poisons, and narcotics will require "special permission" from the government.

International Affairs

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Freezing FRY Relations

LD1707084792 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
0840 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree "On Measures Connected With the Fulfilment of U.N. Security Resolution 757, of May 30, 1992", effectively "freezing" relations between Russia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The preamble of the document points out that it is connected with the mandatory sanctions against Yugoslavia imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

The document, signed by the president on July 14, instructs all Russian state and private enterprises, banks and organisations to proceed in their activities from the fact that exports to Russia of goods from Yugoslavia, any activity exercised by Russian citizens which would promote exports from Yugoslavia, any transactions by Yugoslav citizens connected with goods or products manufactured in Yugoslavia are suspended "until further notice". Exports of goods and products from Russia to Yugoslavia are also halted.

According to the decree, bilateral scientific-technological cooperation, cultural exchanges, visits by individuals or groups, officially sent by Yugoslavia or representing it, are also suspended.

Yeltsin instructed the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Defense to stop issuing permissions for take-off from, landing and flight over Russian territory to any aircraft, if it must make a landing on Yugoslav territory or took off from its territory.

The Central Bank of Russia was ordered to prohibit transfer of funds to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "to take steps with the purpose of reducing the number of staffers at the Yugoslav Embassy in the Russian Federation."

Orders 'Stiff Sanctions'

OW1707144792 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1320 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] *INTERFAX* has it from informed sources that Russia's President Boris Yeltsin signed July 14 an order enacting the stiff sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) adopted by the UN Security Council.

All government offices, industrial, trade, finance and transport enterprises, also companies, banks, organisations, and private persons are notified thereby that the following functions are suspended till further notice:

- imports into Russia of all goods produced in Yugoslavia or reexported by it, as per UN Security Council's resolution;
- all activities aimed at export or transportation of goods from Yugoslavia;
- exports and supplies by Russia's citizens or from its territory, including shipping by vessels flying the Russian flag or by aircraft, of goods or products to any person or organisation in Yugoslavia, or to any person or organisation acting for that country or controlled by it;
- extension of any means or financial or economic resources by Russia's citizens or from its territory to Yugoslavia's government or enterprises, except payments for medical or humanitarian purposes, or food products;
- cooperation in science and technology, cultural exchange, visits by persons or groups sent from Yugoslavia or representing it;
- sports competitions in Russia with Yugoslavia's participation.

Russia's Ministries of Transport and Defence are banned from permitting any aircraft to take off from Russia, or land there, or pass over it, if bound for Yugoslavia or coming from it, except in cases of humanitarian character.

The RF Central Bank is banned from any financial transfers to Yugoslavia.

The RF Customs Committee is alerted against imports and exports to and from Yugoslavia, except in humanitarian cases.

Russia's Foreign Ministry is to take steps to reduce the staff of Yugoslavia's embassy in Moscow.

Rutskoy on Trip to Moldova, 14th Army Status

OW1707082292 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
0754 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Interview with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by *INTERFAX* correspondent Marina Chernukha; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent [Corr.]: How do you assess the results of your trip to Moldova and Trans-Dniester?

RUTSKOY: First, I had a meeting with Mircea Snegur. We had a confidential discussion, and spoke quite candidly. I could see for myself that Moldova's president is seriously concerned with the current developments on the territory of his republic.

Then I had meetings with Georgiy Marakuca and Igor Smirnov. They also showed intense interest in bringing this conflict to a negotiated settlement. There is no doubt about that. However, the conflicting parties still disagree

of the approaches to its settlement. I believe that our discussions will enable us to reach a compromise.

I began to address this issue on President Yeltsin's directions. We were analyzing it objectively, taking into consideration the arguments of both parties. As soon as the talks were finished, we began to shape up a package of documents patterned after the Dagomys agreements. Both Moldova's president and the Trans-Dniester Supreme Council acquiesced in it.

All of us clearly realize the whole gravity of the situation in that region, and that it's high time we began "gathering stones", as the saying goes. At present, the death toll for Trans-Dniester has amounted to 647 people killed in action. The number of casualties on the Dniester Western Bank has not been revealed yet.

Almost all the industrial enterprises in Bendery are out of order. The city has been plundered, burned... nearly all the living quarters ruined. People need shelter and protection. Considering that all this is occurring at the time of harvesting, we have every reason to anticipate famine as an inevitable aftermath of these developments. All this compels us to expedite the preparation of the documents on settling the Trans-Dniester conflict for the presidents of Moldova, Ukraine and Russia to sign.

Corr.: Did you discuss the status of the 14th Army?

RUTSKOY: Yes, we did. First of all, it is crystal clear that we need to maintain a certain joint force in that area for insuring stability during our conflict settlement efforts. The bulk of this force, understandably, will be composed of the units of the 14th Army.

At the same time, the disengagement force in that area has to be more numerous than in South Ossetia. It will consist of Ukrainian, Byelarusian and Russian units. The city of Bendery will also be accorded a special status.

Our primary objective today is a cease-fire. Then it will be necessary to disengage the warring sides. Following that, the problems of Trans-Dniester will be resolved by means of a political dialogue. In particular, it needs an established status.

If we go back to the history of this conflict, we will find out that it roots from the controversy over the status of Trans-Dniester. Therefore, it will never stop unless we establish political and economic status of Trans-Dniester. Its status will be defined in the course of our talks, and I do not find it possible to make any predictions in this regard.

All I can tell you is that the memorandum we are currently working on will be signed by three presidents. Ukraine and Russia intend to assume the responsibility of guarantors for resolving this problem. It also seems to me that Byelarus, Bulgaria and other border countries will join this peace process.

It is just a blueprint of how the problem of Trans-Dniester could be addressed. I say "could be" because at

this stage it would be premature to make any specific commitments, for it's a sore and complex problem. I believe that participating in the dialogue should be the government heads, so long as they have been elected by the people and they bear direct responsibility before them. The mission vested in us is to prepare their dialogue. I am hopeful that soon we will see positive developments in that region.

'Window for Talks' Remains

PM1707145592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Jul 92 Morning Edition pp 1,2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova and Eduard Kondratov: "Search for Compromise in Dniester Region"]

[Text] Chisinau—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's current visit to Moldova has adjusted the relations that have been taking shape recently between Russia and Moldova. They have warmed somewhat. Despite the fact that many problems associated with the Dniester conflict remain, it can be said that there are points of contact in the policy of both states.

Rutskoy came to Moldova to secure a compromise in the Dniester region. That was clear following his visit to Tiraspol. The vice president of Russia, who is trying to act as mediator in the confrontation between Chisinau and Tiraspol and the left-bankers, proposed four points: cease-fire, separation of armed formations, introduction of a peace-making, disengagement force into the front zone, and the return of the deputies from the eastern areas to the Moldovan parliament. Then there was the compromise offered by Moldova—the promise to include Left Bank representatives in a future republic coalition government. They could be offered the portfolios of the ministers of finance and industry, the minister for the eastern territories, and also first deputy defense minister. Having ensured the implementation of this minimum program, the Dniester region could expect a discussion of the region's status. Dniester region leader I. Smirnov said in response to this: "The status question must be examined first, particularly as it slots in with Russian and Dniester region Supreme Soviet resolutions."

The Dniester region Supreme Soviet session, which basically summed up Rutskoy's mission, called the first three points entirely acceptable but objected to the fourth. Despite this a special commission was set up mainly comprising deputies. It has two days to work out counterproposals to Rutskoy's program, which was most likely agreed with Moldovan President Snegur.

So despite the complexity of the situation and the Dniester region's irreconcilability on the question of its status, there nonetheless remains a window for talks and for the quest for possible concessions. The only question is how much time it will take. The consolidation of the cease-fire in the conflict zone, which A. Rutskoy and M. Snegur regard as essential, requires immediate further steps. Provocations continue in Bendery, drawing both sides into firefights. The press both in Chisinau and in

Tiraspol is aggravating the atmosphere. The other day the paper TRUDOVY TIRASPOL published information on the massing of Moldovan armed forces on the right bank of the Dniester and possible plans to establish order in the Dniester region, and it cited the headquarters of the 14th Army. The information caused panic in the city.

An item in the Chisinau paper GLASUL NATSIUNII in which A. Bolshakov, head of a major Tiraspol industrial enterprise, was accused of giving bribes of half a million to Moscow media workers, including "Ostankino" television commentators, in exchange for biased coverage of events in the Dniester region also caused a negative reaction. A. Bolshakov responded by filing a suit with the Moldovan prosecutor for psychological damage caused, putting it at 250,000 rubles [R]. In this situation the peace that has been achieved appears particularly fragile.

The actual possibility of a peaceful settlement of the conflict brought an immediate reaction from the KhDNF-People's Front [Christian Democratic People's Front], which protested any concessions to Moscow. "We have to admit," the KhDNF statement says, "that we were wrong to trust President Snegur," since the "republic leadership, instead of asking Western states for support, again bowed to Moscow." Whether this means the national radicals among the Snegur government's allies will switch to the opposition, only time will tell.

Talks With Palestinian Delegation Held 16 Jul

LD1707145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1352 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The situation in the Middle East and prospects for the peace process in this region were discussed at Russian-Palestinian consultations held here on Thursday [16 July]. The consultations were held within the framework of the working committee on the Middle East with the participation of the head for the department of Africa and the Middle East at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Viktor Posuvalyuk, and member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmud Abbas.

The sides agreed that there are now favourable conditions for constructive discussion in Rome of settlement issues at the forthcoming sixth round of talks between Arabs and Israel. Primarily, this concerns problems of the transition period and self-rule for Palestinians on the west bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The Russian side confirmed firm intention to continue to promote a search for compromises to problems between Arabs and Israelis, to work for real progress at bilateral and multilateral talks.

During the consultations an agreement was reached to continue Russian-Palestinian interaction on a wide range of issues of Middle Eastern settlement.

Churkin Protests Estonian Territorial Claims

LD1707145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1127 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin handed over a note of protest to the Estonian ambassador in Moscow, Yuriy Kahnu, on Friday [17 July] in connection with Estonian territorial claims to Russia. The claims which are voiced in the Estonian Constitution which came into force on July 3 contradict the basic principles of international law, according to the note.

Churkin also handed over to Kahnu the resolutions of the Russian parliament on the rights of the Russian minority in the Baltic state. He stressed it is necessary to avoid dangerous situations to which the continuation of discrimination of the Russian and Russian-speaking minority can lead. The present-day situation should be changed and correspond to the Russian-Estonian treaty signed last year, the deputy minister stressed.

Further on Kunadze, Delegation Visit to Japan

Yeltsin's Japan Visit Viewed

LD1607154492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0935 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo July 16 TASS—Visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Kunadze doubts whether Russian president can spend four days in Japan during his forthcoming visit.

Japanese representatives suggested that the president arrive on September 13 and leave late on September 16.

It will hardly be possible for Boris Yeltsin to stay in Japan that long, as he is to proceed to South Korea later. The visit to both countries will thus make the president absent from Russia for nearly ten days, Kunadze told TASS on Thursday [16 July].

Japan's Watanabe on Yeltsin Remarks

LD1607143992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1356 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo July 16 TASS—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe expressed his dissatisfaction with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent critical remarks to the effect that Tokyo did not contribute to the cause of assistance to Russian reform. During the talks with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze,

Watanabe said that such statements "undermine the position" of the Japanese Government.

According to Watanabe, Japan is sparing no effort to assist Russian reform and will make more efforts in the future, provided Russia takes a (positive) decision on the "northern territories".

'No New Ideas' on Kurils

LD1607203492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT
16 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent A. Koloshin on Russian-Japanese talks in Tokyo on 16 July, including recorded remarks by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister G. Kunadze; introductory paragraph read by program announcer Irina Mishina; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the Russian-Japanese group on a peace treaty took place in Tokyo today.

[Koloshin] It is claimed that blank spaces have been left regarding the territorial problem in the draft of the joint statement on the results of the upcoming September visit to Tokyo by Boris Yeltsin. No new ideas or proposals were put forward, the two sides confirmed the old positions. However, certain new agreements were worked out and are being prepared for signature during the visit, including an agreement on cooperation in space.

The session took place to the accompaniment of statements by our parliamentarians on the supposed existence of a plan in the Foreign Ministry to hand over to Japan the four disputed islands this year. Moreover this is presented as virtually treason toward Russia. As is well known, the most varied projects which do not have official status may go round departments. This is a matter, as the delegation told us, of either slander or the divulging of official secrets.

[Kunadze] It is not for me to comment here. I think that the competent bodies—as we call them in such cases—will probably work on this question, investigate it, introduce complete clarity, and reward everyone according to their deserts. [Video shows meeting and interview.]

Kunadze Supports Kurils Proposal

OW1707115292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0755 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Separate the South Kuril islands from the rest of the Sakhalin region and turn them into a "porto franco" free economic zone—that's the proposal handed to President Yeltsin by the islands' Mayor N. Pokidin, manager of the local fish-cannery N. Protsko, president of the Sakhalin business association V. Averin, and president of the SAKHALININVEST company V. Shevchenko,—as INTERFAX has been informed by parliamentary sources.

The authors of the project have prepared a draft presidential decree banning strikes and all activities by political parties, public organisations, and trade unions in that would-be porto-franco zone. They also suggest its administration should be appointed directly by Russia's President and be responsible to him and the Supreme Soviet.

The letter attached to the proposal asserts that the idea has the support of the islands' population and is backed by Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze.

Supreme Soviet Official on Kurils

PM1607154592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Islands in an Ocean of Problems"]

[Text] "Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, told our newspaper Tuesday [14 July] that President Yeltsin's government has a draft 'three-stage plan to return the territories,' envisaging the return of the four 'Northern Territories' islands to Japan in the course of 1992," NIHON KEIZAI writes. "According to him, the draft clearly indicates that a statement on the return of two islands will be made during the Russian president's visit to Japan."

Yeltsin Adviser on Japanese Role in Dniester

LD1607121792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT
14 Jul 92

[From thr. "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Galina Starovoytova, the Russian president's adviser on interethnic issues, put forward an idea of her own for resolving the Dniester region conflict in an interview with YOMIURI. Her idea is that Japanese peacekeeping forces be sent to the Dniester Region and to other areas of conflict on the territory of the former USSR. The Japanese, Starovoytova thinks, could help observe a cease-fire after combat operations stop in the conflict areas. According to the presidential adviser, this could also have a positive effect on the solution of the territorial problem existing between Moscow and Tokyo.

Russian, FRG Air Force Chiefs Confer

MK1707161792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer: "We Fly Only on Aircraft; Air Force Commander in Chief Meets Luftwaffe Commander in Chief"]

[Text] On 13 July Lieutenant General Hans-Jorg Kuebart, commander in chief of the Luftwaffe (FRG) arrived in Moscow.

In the afternoon talks took place in Peter's Palace (the Zhukovskiy Academy) between Hans-Jorg Kuebart and Colonel General of Aviation Petr Deynekin, the Russian commander in chief of the Air Force.

Quite substantial common problems connected both with the temporary basing of Russian air forces on German soil and also with the German side's use of former Soviet military equipment were discussed. As is known, the Luftwaffe "inherited" from the GDR People's Army several hundred aircraft but the zealous West Germans [as published] retained in their arsenal only one squadron of the latest MiG-29's and sent all the older aircraft "to the crusher." Now the military airmen of the two countries really have become "brothers in arms," and many similar problems have cropped up for them.

The German MiG-29 squadron is now based at an airfield close to the Polish border but this base seems inconvenient to the German command and inadequately equipped. From the German viewpoint the best and cheapest solution to the problem would be to redeploy the MiG's to the airfield in Falkenberg (where the MiG's of the Russian 16th Army under General Tarasenko are currently based), and, moreover to do this earlier than the time set by the treaty on withdrawal (the end of 1993).

The monstrous costs of "reconstructing" the former GDR have led to a reduction in defense spending in Germany by 2 billion marks [DM] instead of the usual 2-3 percent increase as in previous years (taking inflation into account). The Bundeswehr is having to count every pfennig.

Problems have also arisen with the purchase of spare parts for the MiG-29's. At the direct instruction of Gen. Deynekin, the 16th army is giving the Luftwaffe assistance in operating the Mig-29's (routine maintenance, delivery of "small" spares, etc.), but the Germans will soon have to replace the engines. Talks are now going on with the "Oboroneksport" Foreign Trade Organization (the former Main Engineering Administration of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations—see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA issue No. 131). However, the proposed price seems exorbitant to the Germans and they are unsure whether they have enough money for the new engines.

Gen. Deynekin replied "that he will not be able to move the men from Falkenberg before the set time because there is nowhere to move them to—we are living in adapted premises. One Russian airman in three has no housing." At the same time Deynekin offered the Luftwaffe joint Russian-German basing in Falkenberg as an interim solution and, at the same time as a measure of mutual trust: "We do less flying, there is no aviation fuel and it is very expensive, so there is enough sky for everyone."

As for the engines for the Mig-29's Gen. Deynekin suggested that the Luftwaffe should not get mixed up with all the bureaucrats but should buy the motors directly from the Air Force "on a barter basis" in exchange for the construction of housing. Gen. Deynekin recalled that back on 27 February President Yeltsin had

signed a decree and an ordinance in accordance with which the Air Force was permitted to sell surplus equipment and hardware (up to 1600 units) both within the country and also outside its confines and to invest the money obtained in social programs and in financing Russia's aircraft building industry (up to \$9 billion).

The sale of hardware for export must take place via the structures of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, but since February nothing has succeeded in being sold. On 7 July Vice Premier Shumeyko signed a government ordinance which broadened the rights and powers of the Air Force and also "noted down" in greater detail the mechanism for implementing the 27 February decree. "We have all the powers to realize our opportunities," Deynekin said. "There are, of course, forces who are impeding us. There used to be whole structures which evidently had some kind of unofficial earnings from the trade in weapons. They are, of course, opposed to the Air Force's setting up in powerful competition against them. At the moment several dozens of countries are poorly supplied with spare parts precisely because those officials had no vested interest in this." The German side was also offered the joint operation of certain aircraft repair plants on the territory of the former GDR, including during the period after the final withdrawal of troops.

Gen. Kuebart promised to examine carefully the proposals of the Air Force Command although he recalled that it is a purely civilian structure (and not the military themselves) who deal in the FRG Defense Ministry with purchases of arms (including spare parts) and that this structure can have dealings only with officially registered export organizations and usually does not work directly with foreign military people. However, civilians (consisting, for the most part, of generals who have completed their term of service—normal practice in many countries of the world) will also now be dealing with arms orders in the Russian defense department.

Agreement was reached that the exchange of delegations would continue. In particular a delegation of war veterans including the famous Maresyev who, on artificial legs, fought against the Germans, will soon travel to Germany.

During the visit which will last until 17 July, Gen. Kuebart will visit his birthplace in Kaliningrad Oblast around what is now called Chernyakovsk, will spend a whole day in Kubinka, will visit a plant where MiG's are made, etc.

Luftwaffe Commander Interviewed

MK1707193592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Hans Jorg Kuebart, commander in chief of FRG Luftwaffe by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Pavel Felgengauer; place and date not given: "General Kuebart: The MiG-29 Is a Remarkable Fighter Aircraft"]

[Text] [Felgengauer] General Kuebart, you are having, so I have heard, many problems with servicing the MiG-29 although for the time being you are coping with the help of the friendly Russian air force [aviatsiya]. But how do you find the aircraft themselves? Are there any problems there?

[Kuebart] We have no complaints regarding the aircraft or the airmen. Pilots of the former GDR People's Army are flying the MiG-29's (they were trained by Soviet specialists). Only the squadron commander is from the West. Of course the tactical methods in the NATO forces differ somewhat so that the pilots are having to retrain, but in general we have no serious problems. The MiG-29 is a remarkable machine, an excellent fighter aircraft.

[Felgengauer] Have you refitted your MiG-29's with western aerial warfare systems or have you retained the Soviet equipment?

[Kuebart] We decided to keep everything as it is and to operate the MiG-29's through the year 2000 with the present standard issue armament. We are not about to modernize them: Let them fly while they can. We have merely installed on board Western navigation equipment so that they can fly in the zone over which NATO has responsibility.

[Felgengauer] Are any plans for further purchases of Russian combat equipment being discussed in the FRG Defense Ministry, especially aircraft? After all, the project for developing the new "European" fighter is now under a big question mark.

[Kuebart] Our parliament has indeed decided that the present version of the "European" fighter is too expensive, but at the same time it was deemed essential to preserve the consortium of countries (Britain, Italy, Spain, and the FRG) which are participating in the "European" project, and this decision by parliament is binding on us. Possibly new participants will be recruited to the project (France, for instance) or a cheaper project will be devised with the same participants.

Now the purchase of foreign hardware is virtually ruled out (if only our politicians would not change their decisions). In any case I believe that it is necessary to support our own industry. It is necessary to stand on our own feet—Russia on its own feet, Germany on its own feet. Especially as far as defense is concerned. I do not believe that it is necessary to "tour the world" buying weapons.

Delegation in Cyprus With Message for Vasiliou

LD1607155392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0945 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Doroshenko]

[Text] Nicosia July 16 TASS—A delegation from the Krasnodar territory conveyed to President Yeoryios Vasiliou of Cyprus a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [15 July].

The head of the delegation, Chairman of the Krasnodar Territory Council Aleksandr Zhdanovskiy, handed over a letter to Parliament Chairman Alexis Galanos, who is acting head of state as the president is taking part in the talks in New York.

In the letter the president gave high appraisal of concrete proposals by Cyprus on matters of Russian-Cypriot cooperation in developing the Black Sea area. Yeltsin noted the need to provide a relevant legal and financial basis for the successful attainment of goals of mutually advantageous cooperation. The Russian president expressed the hope that the problem of the island will be solved soon and assured Cypriots of full support from Russia for their efforts.

In the conversation with the representatives of the Russian Black Sea area, the chairman of the parliament noted the desire of the Cypriot leadership to render assistance to Moscow's economic reforms on the road to a market-based economy. Galanos expressed gratitude to the Russian president for support for the struggle of Cypriots to preserve unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

Zhirinovskiy on Plans To Picket Estonian Embassy

OW1607174292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, says his party will picket the embassies of the countries "which violate the rights of Russian nationals, first and foremost, the Estonian Embassy". At a press conference in Moscow this Thursday [16 July] he maintained that his party will launch a campaign for the inception of the Narva Republic and an autonomy in Eastern Estonia which, knowledgeably, features compact settlement of Russian-speaking population.

In the words of the Liberal Democratic Party leader, "the state of Estonia is an artificial entity which has no substance in terms of economics". "Estonia's actual president is not Mr Ruutel," he went on, "but the chief of the LENENRGO [Leningrad Power Supply Department] which can easily deprive of power the so-called country".

Mr Zhirinovskiy pledged to leave the suburbs of Tallinn for the Estonians, whereas "the other Estonian refugees would have to be accepted by Sweden".

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Promises Support to Media Leaders

LD1607170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1651 GMT 16 Jul 92

[text] Moscow July 16 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed his support to democratic press on

Thursday [16 July] in the Kremlin, where he received leaders of Russia's mass media.

Yeltsin's press service told journalists that Yeltsin promised there would be no return to censorship and added that he would not allow to revise the constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Yeltsin also said that Russia's overcoming the crisis, which stemmed from a totalitarian regime, was impossible without the support of the democratic mass media.

Yeltsin Meets With Media Officials; Talks Noted

LD1607184692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Video report by correspondent N. Chernyshova on meeting in Moscow between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Media officials on freedom of press, including recorded remarks made by Yeltsin during the meeting; from the "Novosti" newscast presented by Irina Mishina]

[Text] Our producer has told us that the reportage on President Yeltsin's meeting with leaders of the media is ready:

[Chernyshova] [Video shows media chiefs entering a hall in the Kremlin, shaking hands with each other, then brief photograph of Khasbulatov in MOSCOW NEWS; Yeltsin shown entering the room and greeting the chiefs; then shown seated around a large table, and Yeltsin addresses the assembled media chiefs] Every cloud has a silver lining. The attempt by the Supreme Soviet to privatize the prestigious IZVESTIYA newspaper has given the editors in chief of progressive publications the chance to meet the Russian president and to put to him, apart from the main question about pressure on the press, a mass of other questions. But first of all, the media:

[Kostikov, Yeltsin's press secretary] Give your name and the publication you represent.

[Yeltsin] I consider any comment against the press to be intolerable, intolerable. Pressure is intolerable, and it is intolerable especially as it contributes toward the destruction of what has been achieved to date.

Yes, the media is suffering, as the whole of society is suffering, during this period. It is suffering together with everyone else, with the people of Russia, with Russia, and together with the Government, the president, and the Supreme Soviet, with the bodies of authority, and with everyone—it is suffering. But the press is not to blame for this, or rather the media. This really is the sort of period during which democracy is fighting for its existence. This battle is being waged fairly fiercely, and there is powerful opposition. Correspondingly, the media need to show the overall state of affairs in society,

expressing and reflecting various points of view in their various branches of the media. I consider this to be absolutely normal.

If leaders, heads, the president, or anyone else starts to put pressure upon the press, then that means he is weak. A strong leader will not put pressure upon the press, even if they criticize him. This criticism is necessary. Insults or lies are another matter, but if we fail to criticize now then we will once more slip into those quagmires in which we floundered for many decades. We must not permit this.

As president I made a statement about this at the Congress of People's Deputies—about my support for the media—and I once more confirm to you my support in my capacity as president, and my support for the media. Together we labored over the law on the press. We labored over it for a long time, and such a law was adopted by the Supreme Soviet. As president I must follow the line of insuring this law is implemented by absolutely everyone, without exception. No one can or should be able to break the law.

[Chernyshova] In conclusion, Boris Nikolayevich expressed the hope that tomorrow's hearing of the media in the Supreme Soviet will go ahead without incident. Yeltsin said: You will go there with the support of the president, and I hope that you will not be able to suspect me of any deviation to the right.

In addition, in replying to questions, he spoke about improving relations with the CIS countries, in particular with Ukraine. He rejected the possibility of a new putsch. Considering the fall in production, Yeltsin noted that the fall is not as terrible as the press describes if one takes into account the fact that of 11 percent of the 15 percent can be accounted for by the fall in production in the defense sphere. The slow rate of privatization worries him far more, but he hopes that everything will be resolved by the end of the year. Yeltsin reported that Matyukhin, the chairman of the Central Bank, has been relieved of his post, and that the Supreme Soviet is currently examining three new candidates for this post.

The president categorically rejected a proposal to bring an action against the DEN magazine for insulting his honor, and he said that should he wish to do so he could catch out any publication on this count. However, it is not the president's affair to indulge in a settling of accounts, and it is not right to embark upon actions against the press. So that is how it is.

Further on Meeting

LD1607224392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1925 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at meeting with media officials in the Kremlin in Moscow on 16 July—recorded]

[Text] [Yeltsin] I have received your appeal and I share your concern at the fact that abnormal relations between the mass media and the authorities—evidently first and foremost with the Supreme Soviet—are being formed. With great difficulty we all have achieved material changes in the style of the press, its democratization, and its independence. The fact that history is opening up for the people is partly because of the press; what has happened over this year, 18 months, is also partly because of the press.

The press constantly supported the pluralism which was destroyed in 1917 by the Bolsheviks. They even closed Maxim Gorkiy's NOVAYA ZHIZN newspaper, I think. When a monopoly came into existence, the mass media was in the pocket. This has been the situation for all these decades. I am well aware of the whole mechanism of constant agreement, censorship, so on and so forth; the CPSU Central Committee ideological section—and other bodies, of course—practically dictated everything to the press. It was a long way from any kind of independence where the press could have a free voice and journalists could express their own point of view.

There were certain bad decisions made by the government, Supreme Soviet, and the president. Yes, sometimes it is painful for me, as president, as well. Nonetheless, I consider any comment against the press to be intolerable. Any pressure is intolerable, especially as it contributes toward the destruction of what has been achieved to date.

Yes, the media is suffering, as is the whole of society during this period. It is suffering together with everyone else—with the people of Russia, the government, the president, the Supreme Soviet, the bodies of authority—with everyone the media is suffering. But the press, or rather the media, is not to blame for this. This is the sort of period during which democracy is fighting for its existence. This battle is being waged fairly, fiercely, yet with powerful opposition.

Correspondingly, the media needs to point out the overall state of affairs in society. The media needs to express and reflect various points of view in their various branches of the media. I consider this to be absolutely normal.

If leaders, heads of government, the president or anyone else starts to put pressure on the press, this indicates he is weak. A strong leader will not put pressure on the press, even if it criticizes him.

Criticism of this sort is needed. Not insults or lies; those are another matter. But if we stop criticizing now, we will slip back into the swamp we have been living in for many decades. This cannot be permitted. As president, I talked about this at the Congress of Peoples' Deputies, about supporting the mass media. I can confirm this again for you: You have the support of the president and the backing is there for the media.

The process of arriving at the press law was painful for us all: but we arrived there. The Supreme Soviet adopted the law. As president, I ought to implement the policy of this law being executed by everyone, without exceptions. Nobody is allowed to break the law. Attempts to tame a part of the media, to stir up one newspaper against another, to compare newspapers or to say this television channel is better than another, is impermissible.

Society—the people, the Russian people—are going through a difficult time now. This year will be a difficult one. It has been already said. From the viewpoint of a political culture, one would like the mass media to rise above the general political culture.

One would like to see the mass media taking society with it, as it were. But I say that as a general wish. I think this relates not just to the media, but to officials at all levels, including leaders and the president.

[Unidentified correspondent] The intelligentsia.

[Yeltsin] Yes, the intelligentsia. Quite right. That is my wish, and I think that you will have the same view. But that is all. As for other intentions, I don't have any. The thing is that I don't propose and don't intend to deal with particular matters which I disagree with—and such matters exist, of course.

Everyone has the right to speak and to express himself—yes, even Matroskaya Tishina. At first, I was on the verge of becoming indignant, but once again I restrained myself! Let Kryuchkov write what he wants. I know who organized the putsch. Kryuchkov was the main organizer. I know that full well. I could feel this every minute on my own skin. As for who destroyed the Union, that is also clear. The Union treaty had been prepared for signing on 20 August 1991. I took a fairly active part in preparing the draft at Novo-Ogarevo, and it had been officially endorsed. It had been prepared. People were supposed to arrive on the 20th, and the majority had arrived to sign it. If it had been signed, the Union would doubtless not have disintegrated.

The coup showed that the states, the republics, belonging to the Union simply lost trust in the system of the previous leadership. They pursued their own path, national sovereignty, as it were. Of course this process has now given Russia a great deal. So far we cannot make use of everything which the situation has given Russia, however, I think that this is ahead of us. Russia is a great power. It will become a great power. Especially since, having traversed this difficult period, it will rise mightily. Mightily, I stress. She has colossal potential in terms of people and talent. Russia has clever people, industrious people.

She possesses such territory, minerals—a unique market in the world, a unique market. She will overcome psychological barriers on the path to a transition—to a market economy, private property, and so forth. Having mastered all the civilized methods and ways, she is making full use of them. I think that—having freed

themselves from their debts, from their lowest common denominator philosophy and dependence—everyone is achieving freedom, both to earn and to labor, and to receive as much as they have actually earned without any restrictions. This will be a good incentive and I am sure that Russia will understand. Of course, at present, people are suffering.

We met the day before yesterday—the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and his deputies, and Gaydar and his deputies. This is a new approach. We tried to get rid of those difficult issues which arise between the president and parliament, sometimes within that formula of further, genuine, real division of the functions of authority—the first, the second, the third, and the fourth estate have to find a system of coordinating actions. Because, division or not, it is still necessary to agree on certain questions, for example the Value Added Tax [VAT].

The budget does not possibly allow this to be done this year. In any case, the day before yesterday we agreed to it, and today the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision as we agreed. That is, as of 1 January 1993 VAT is reduced from 28 to 20 percent. We discussed many issues there, including the bank, which we also agreed on, by the way. The mass media was a serious theme. Mikhail Nikiforovich [Poltoragin, press minister] was a direct participant and we together postponed this question. I must say, so you don't exaggerate this, that tomorrow there is a discussion. The deputies in the Supreme Soviet have some complaints, but you should be calm and not panicked, in relation to this. There will be no documents which will ruin or strike a strong blow against the mass media.

Scenarios for Yeltsin's Ouster Examined

MK1607132992 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 29, 19 Jul 92 (Signed to Press 14 Jul 92) p 10

[Vladimir Orlov article under the "Politics" rubric: "President and Prophecies"]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray: "The ground is already prepared, and I am almost sure that an attempt will be made in the fall or winter of this year to remove the president from power."

Andrey Kozyrev: "The threat of an antidemocratic coup exists. The party of war and the party of neo-Bolshevism is rearing its head."

Pavel Voshchanov: "The corrupt nomenklatura clan is already raising a new political elite... It is no more than one step from a banana democracy to commonplace dictatorship."

Boris Yeltsin: "I will not permit my removal from the post of president of Russia. Some people naively believe that, by collecting a few signatures, it is possible to impeach the president. According to the Constitution,

just three options are possible. If I myself resign. I will not do that. If I have committed a crime. Or if I am so ill that I am incapable of leading the state."

There is a new fashion among politicians—to make prophecies about Yeltsin's imminent fall. They are already competing to predict when this will happen. People who know like the back of their hand the "kitchen" on the top floor of the power pyramid lay claim to Cassandra's gift—which kills the temptation to accuse them of simple mischievousness. Is there a real threat? If there is, how great is it? If not, what are the motives of the "new Shevardnadzes"?

The Time Will Come... How will it happen?

The foreign minister does not yet know how the president will be removed, but he sees only two ways: either through "another CPSU congress or by way of apparatus revenge."

Sergey Shakhray—ex-state counselor, ex-vice premier, and now "simple parliamentarian"—presents in far greater detail the scenario that is being prepared. The "first shock wave—discrediting of the president as an individual"—has already begun in his opinion. This will soon be followed by "pinning down his inaccurate legal actions."

The most likely arena is the Constitutional Court, which will raise the question of impeachment, and the Congress of People's Deputies, which will readily carry out the changeover of power. Shakhray argues that the opponents might "succeed in creating a situation in which Yeltsin will himself be forced to resign."

Who benefits? At first Shakhray numbered among the main driving forces "the fascist-like national-patriotic organizations, for which the conditions now are simply auspicious," and then added the "communist leaders" who once again occupy key posts "not only in parliament but also in economic, government, and other structures."

Soon, however, the former presidential "legal adviser" tended toward the idea that the "red and browns" "have no chance of returning to power." At least, not for the next 10-15 years. Therefore he consistently lists more likely Brutuses: the vice president, the Security Council, the directors of the military-industrial complex.

To call things by their proper names, it will turn out that Yeltsin's chief enemies are Yuriy Petrov ("disguised communists") and Arkadiy Volskiy ("directors of the military-industrial complex"). It is they who, at the appointed hour, will "use" Aleksandr Rutskoy, Valeriy Zorkin, Yuriy Skokov, the parliament, and the Congress and will present us with a new president by 1993.

Andrey Kozyrev is inclined to localize the threat: He sees the leaders of the Ministries of Security and Defense in first place among the future conspirators. In Kozyrev's opinion, it is no coincidence that Barannikov's service gives Yeltsin deliberately distorted information. They are followed by

Rutskoy ("people who participated in the events in Afghanistan try to use the same logic here").

Pavel Voshchanov, the president's former press secretary, was once under crossfire from the same "apparatus" of which both Shakhray and Kozyrev speak with alarm. In the end, he preferred not to balance between administration head Petrov and "first assistant" Ilyushin. Voshchanov is the only one of the "prophets" to reject the idea of a coup and to predict a slide toward a dictatorship with the blessing of Yeltsin himself. He believes that the new nomenklatura, which has already taken over all the staging areas, will soon try to legitimate Yeltsin's dictatorship.

Is there a way out? The Russian Cassandras are surprisingly unanimous on this: The way out is a considerable strengthening of presidential power.

It is sufficient to recall that as long ago as March, at a government sitting, Shakhray spoke of "passive and active sabotage" of the president's policy and demanded that "the situation be demolished by holding new (parliamentary and local) elections," insisted on a referendum on the fate of the Congress, and suggested that the president fill the "power vacuum." Yeltsin reacted abruptly at the time, saying that "this is not the government's position," and advised people "not to panic."

Kozyrev, who has always been distinguished by superloyalty to Yeltsin, is still more categorical: "He remains the only rock, the only real force resisting the trend, and we must all rally around him."

No Prophets in Their Own Country...

Is Shakhray entirely correct? It is clearly stretching a point to reduce the role of the Constitutional Court to a blind champion of the interests of some new members of some State Committee for the State of Emergency. The former state counselor for legal questions knows better than many people that the court's composition provides too little grounds for accusing it of not being independent. Valeriy Zorkin's warnings, which he made as long ago as last winter, of the theoretical possibility of impeaching top officials, and which were repeated recently in a statement by the whole court, hardly mean any more than a deliberate show of independence by the "third estate" under conditions when the two others, particularly executive power, are exerting pressure on it.

Shakhray's hint at Yuriy Petrov's involvement in a future coup is accounted for by their long-standing, acute conflict: "The reform-braking group under the president virtually debarred me from the process of formulating decisions."

Is not Nikolay Travkin more accurate in his assessment of the role of Arkadiy Volskiy and his team: "Which political force in its right mind today would chase after portfolios? Volskiy does not resemble someone who is terminating his own future. Later, of course, new swimmers [plovetis] must come forward. Later."

In terms of form, Shakhray's claims are increasingly resembling the speeches of a representative of quite a different camp—Sergey Kurginyan, a verbal conjurer: You can see he has swindled you, but you do not know how; hence your curiosity. It cannot be ruled out that Shakhray, having gotten freedom to maneuver, first, is torpedoing his political opponents, whom he was unable to vanquish while working with them under the same roof. Second, he is making safe political capital for himself: If the prophesies do not come true, this means that it is thanks to his warnings. If they do come true: "Remember who warned you, but you did not believe him!"

Shakhray is young and ambitious enough to have reason to reckon on career development. Not having gotten the post of speaker of parliament and having deliberately refused to aspire to the seat of a member of the Constitutional Court, and then of its chairman, he does not rule out the possibility of running for president in the future.

Kozyrev lacks the latter motive. The minister is altogether far more sincere. But, like Shakhray, he partly resolves his own tasks. Above all, he is extremely interested in removing the vice president.

Kozyrev and Rutskoy are antagonists in their political views. Whereas the former holds talks in the Dniester region, the latter insists on the use of force. Whereas the former threatens to "get out of the game" in the event of demands for the Crimea to be returned to Russia, the latter peremptorily declares: "The Crimea must be Russian!" The vice president begins and ends speeches with patriotic slogans. The minister speaks with irony of those who dream of the "showing of the orb" ["yavleniye Derzhavy"].

Did the president know? This is the key question. Neither Kozyrev nor Shakhray could have failed to consult the president in advance. Moreover, the chief reason behind the statements of Shakhray and, in particular, Kozyrev was precisely to prepare public opinion for the legitimization of the president's authoritarian regime and to prove the necessity and urgency of such legitimization.

Yeltsin himself is ready already. To the direct question—"Is it not time to make use of power?"—he makes an equally direct reply today: "I believe that it is time... Our actions will be more definite now, because an offensive is being mounted by the reds and browns, so to speak. It is time for the executive power to show itself just a little bit more tough."

In just the same way as "someone somewhere sometimes in our country" actually meant "absolutely everywhere," so "just a little bit more tough" could be tantamount to the introduction of authoritarian rule in Russia.

Fateful Words Unclear...

If the motivation of the "prophets" is sincere only to an insignificant extent, then is there any cause for panic or fears? What is the real multivariant nature of the development of events this year, not as presented by Shakhray?

Parallels like Petrov-Boldin, Gaydar-Abalkin, and Shumeyko-Pavlov are too strained and ignore to too great a degree the change in the whole political situation over the past year since the putsch to claim to be a serious examination.

An analysis of the threat of a coup by "reds and browns" ends on this note: They are extremely dangerous, but they are not competitors. The new ruling elite needs the talk of this threat itself in order to play at forestalling. This is perfectly reasonable insurance against a really hard autumn, when we will see appearing not "the first signs of stabilization" (as the president promised just recently in a speech badly prepared by his aides) but an avalanche-like growth in unemployment and, consequently, the rapid lumpenization of the population.

As regards "apparatus revenge," here I will have to agree with Pavel Voshchanov. Let us not touch on emotional assessments or go into an analysis of the "strengthening of oligarchic elements" in the present leadership (according to a remark by Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov). Let us confine ourselves to noting the fact that Yeltsin succeeded in forming a reliable entourage around himself in a record short time. The people who brought Yeltsin to power received all the posts they desired and are dependably protected by the president against "radical democrats" (what do you think it cost Yeltsin—to suit them—to sacrifice just Petrov alone who was not all that indispensable?).

For the time being the new nomenklatura has a vital interest in protecting the president, and he has every reason to say today: "I am confident of their decency, which I value very highly..."

The "party of major industrialists" is also hardly antagonistic toward Yeltsin. The Yeltsin-Volskiy contact exists and, in the majority of cases, works. We should certainly expect an informal rapprochement between the president and the "Civic Union," which is gaining in clout.

The present time in general is very convenient for official plenipotentiaries to formulate alarmist theories. The mass media miss the sharp development of Russian politics. The "putsch complex" is making itself felt, and they are even sorry, as it were, to part with it, particularly as a sensation in the press is always more noteworthy than a calm prognosis. Hence the numerous predictions about "Gaydar's removal" by the "corps of directors," while the appointment of new vice premiers fitted perfectly in the channel of reform.

Et Tu, Rutskoy?...

The absence of profound reasons for gloomy forecasts and the existence of quite favorable political conditions for Yeltsin in the immediate future do not mean, however, that the version of the president's removal can be ruled out.

Politicians quite rightly point to the strengthening role of the Security Council.

This organ, which, in accordance with the law on security, is endowed with impressive rights, no longer restricts the range of items on its agenda. Everything is discussed: from the events in the Dniester region to the problems with cash. Its functions are increasingly resembling those of the Politburo.

Is this not the reason for the sincere notes of concern in the voice of Andrey Kozyrev, witness of Security Council sessions? The Security Council itself made haste to call this concern "harmful." No wonder: At the same time as Kozyrev (and also other ministers and even Gaydar) has an advisory voice at sessions of the "new Politburo," Rutskoy and Skokov have a casting vote. Let us remind you that Yeltsin, Filatov (first deputy speaker of parliament), and the prime minister (which Gaydar has not yet become!) also have a casting vote. Decisions are adopted by a simple majority of votes. Yeltsin has the right of veto.

Can we fail to be disconcerted by the strong positions of Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, author of the winged phrase: "The only real forces that can defend the reforms in the Russian Federation are the Armed Forces and our apparatuses"? Not to mention the new appointments in the Ministry of Defense, particularly that of Boris Gromov as deputy minister.

How frank is Aleksandr Rutskoy being when he says that he "laughed at all these forecasts of Shakhrai's. What kind of henchman of the military-industrial complex am I, for God's sake..."? Particularly when he at once adds: "We cannot rule out critical situations which will occasion extreme measures."

The balance of interests is being observed at present. But the fact that several chance happenings (like the president's unfortunate improvisations) coincided with the emergence of the working coalition of Rutskoy, Skokov, Grachev, Barannikov, and some of the oppositional national patriots could upset the balance.

The likelihood of this is, I repeat, small. But is it possible, having become like the Shakespearean character, to rule out entirely the possibility that Burnham Wood could move to Dunsinane Hill?

Rutskoy Calls For Kozyrev Resignation

OW1607180792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1714 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The vice president of Russian Federation, Aleksandr Rutskoy, insists that the minister of foreign affairs, Andrey Kozyrev, should resign.

Speaking at the opening session of the political consultative council of the "Grazhdanski Soyuz" ("Civil Union") alliance in Moscow Thursday [16 July], Aleksandr Rutskoy was vocal about numerous rumors circulating in the country invoking a coup or impeachment of the president. These rumors are also spread by the people holding the

offices as responsible as that of the minister of foreign affairs, the Russian vice president said.

"I insist," he emphasized, "that such persons should be relieved of their offices". If they feel at liberty to make public statements provoking a coup, they are either blockheads or provocateurs, since provoking a coup spells danger for anyone regardless of his political orientation, he averred.

Aleksandr Rutskoy called for composing the government of the people "who have a practical, rather than theoretical knowledge of the reform and are capable of directing it by deeds rather than hypothetically".

Rutskoy Says 'Total Anarchy' Prevails

LD1607182992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1821 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ludmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Thursday [16 July] criticised the government's policy. Addressing a political meeting in Moscow, Rutskoy said that strong power was necessary for the success of reform. In the meantime "total anarchy" dominates the country now. The reform is nothing but "ungoverned process of macroeconomic maneuvering," but "nobody is responsible for anything and nothing is being regulated in the economy," Rutskoy said.

Rutskoy also accused the present government of irresponsible declarations about the possibility of a coup. People of practice rather than theorists should occupy posts in government, he added.

Rutskoy Cites 'Total Absence of Power'

LD1607192792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1745 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has subjected the government policy to sharp criticism. He spoke today, 16 July, at the Moscow President Hotel at the first session of the Civil Union's Political Consultative Council—the bloc of political parties among which, in particular, is the People's Party of Free Russia, whose leader is Aleksandr Rutskoy, as well as the Democratic Party of Russia, and the All-Russia Renewal Union. The vice president stated that the Civil Union intends to bring forward its own alternative economic program. Strong power is needed for the reform to succeed, Aleksandr Rutskoy said, primarily strong presidential power.

In Rutskoy's opinion, at the moment in Russia there is a "total absence of power," the reform has turned into an "unmanageable process of macroeconomic regulation," and "for a long time no one has been regulating and no one has been answering for anything" in the economy. The vice president assured the audience that the Civil Union "does

not intend to draw up a scenario for overthrowing the president" and to push for the government's resignation. However, in his opinion, "the people who have a good understanding of the reforms should be in the government"—the practitioners and not theoreticians.

Civic Union Adopts Appeal to Yeltsin

LD1607202392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT
16 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent A. Lutskey on Civic Union meeting in Moscow on 16 July, including recorded remarks by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy at the meeting; introductory paragraph read by program presenter Irina Mishina; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Civic Union discussed its economic program on 16 July. This is a constructive and fairly serious political force. Looking at the Civic Union of Volstkiy, Rutskoy, and Travkin, many are inclined to believe that the new bloc has the potential to pursue a more balanced and more stable policy.

[Lutskey] Liberal reforms are impossible without strong authority, and authority cannot become strong without the success of liberal reforms, Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy declared at today's session of the Civic Union Political Consultative Council. Representatives of the Civic Union from the People's Party of Free Russia, the Democratic Party of Russia, the Change-New Policy faction of the Supreme Soviet, and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs discussed an alternative program for the stabilization of socioeconomic life to that of the government. They adopted an appeal to President Yeltsin which speaks of the need for an adjustment of the course of reforms and the speediest possible adoption of measures for the social protection of the population.

[Rutskoy] A man needs one thing: elementary, human living conditions. A man needs a man to become an individual. [sentence as heard] An individual. So that no one can mock this individual. So that no one can carry out violence against him. [Video shows Rutskoy talking to the session; Volstkiy also attending]

Shakhray Unhurt in 'Serious' Auto Accident

LD1707091192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A report from an ITAR-TASS correspondent has just come in to the editorial office. It says that a car carrying Sergey Shakhray, member of the parliamentary committee, has been involved in a serious accident. This accident, according to Shakhray's aide, (Andrey Voyko), occurred on the evening of 16 July on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt when Sergey Mikhailovich was returning from the Kremlin to the dacha in Arkhangelskoye where he is working on the documents of the Constitutional Court.

His car, travelling at a speed of 130 kmph in the VIP lane, collided with a Zhiguli car on the right-hand side. After the collision, Shakhray's car was thrown into the opposite lanes, and the driver could not avoid a collision with oncoming cars.

As a result of the accident, the driver received a serious spinal injury and a broken leg, but Sergey Mikhailovich himself got away, in his own words, with only a scare.

This morning he is taking part in the work of the Supreme Soviet.

Crash Done 'Deliberately'

LD1707123192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We just have received an official report from the press service of the president of the Russian Federation. I already have said that yesterday at 2100, more correctly at approximately 2100 [1700 GMT], a Zhiguli car drove into and overturned Sergey Shakhray's car, a Volga. According to some data, the Volga was proceeding in the left lane along the Mozhayskoye Shosse at a speed of 130 km per hour.

For a 1.5 tonne Volga with three passengers to be overturned by a Zhiguli car takes a great deal of skill.

This was done deliberately, the press service of Russia's president says.

The experts who have carried out an analysis of the accident do not rule that it was a premeditated and serious crime. An investigation is being carried out.

Citizens who know anything about the circumstances of this accident are requested to ring the Chief Security Directorate of the Russian Federation on 224 6108, 224 6108.

Yakovlev Attacks Khasbulatov Line on Media

PM1607162492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the Ostankino Russian State Television and Radio Company, reprinted from OBSHCAYA GAZETA No. 2, published 16 July; article is carried under the general heading "Frontal Attack on Freedom of Speech Is an Encroachment on Russian Democracy": "There's Bound To Be Trouble"]

[Text] The Ostankino Television program "Glasnost in Danger." Two pages in IZVESTIYA under the banner headline "Encroachment on the Status of the Newspaper IZVESTIYA—One of the Most Overt Attempts at Revanche by the Nomenklatura." The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA feature under the general heading "Freedom of the Press Is the First To Die, But All Those

Who Stifled It Will Perish in Its Wake." And much more in the same vein that need never have happened, were it not for the circumstances.

These circumstances were engendered by a remarkable flurry of activity by our parliamentarians, headed by their speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Fulfilling the instructions of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies—to look into the mass media without delay—the Supreme Soviet commission worked nonstop for two months. Finally, on Saturday 11 July, the draft to which it gave birth was discussed in the White House with leaders of the mass media. But it turned out not to stand up to criticism. And then overnight from Saturday to... Monday, an entirely different draft was brought forth and, this time with no discussion at all, submitted to the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium. It was there, too, that another draft turned up, aimed, in general terms, at the abolition of IZVESTIYA; the newspaper's chief editor Igor Golembiovskiy was familiarized with this draft in the morning of that same black Monday.

Who needs this sudden flurry of activity, when it is a question of deciding the fate of Russia's biggest television companies and press publications, and ultimately the fate of IZVESTIYA, which touches the lives of all generations today?

This haste is needed by people acting with obvious premeditation. And that means, first and foremost, Ruslan Khasbulatov. Judge for yourselves. Just two episodes.

IZVESTIYA reports how, on Khasbulatov's insistence, his Chechen fellow countrymen are kicked out of Moscow hotels, and beaten up in the process. What does Khasbulatov do? He states publicly that IZVESTIYA is a "corrupt and subversive" publication. The newspaper files a lawsuit against Khasbulatov. But instead of submitting to the court the documents required of him, Khasbulatov starts persecuting the newspaper itself. This activity has culminated in the draft resolution in question.

The second episode. In front of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company's microphones, Khasbulatov swears that it never crossed his mind to say, in an interview for the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA, that the members of the Russian Government are... not people, but worms. We had to show astonished viewers the tape of that very same Khasbulatov interview, or to put it more simply—expose his lie. A normal person would admit it: Some devil got into me. But what worries Khasbulatov is how to get back at Ostankino.

Chance played a hand. Vladislav Fomin popped up out of nowhere—off the street, in fact. And proposed that nothing less than five-and-a-half hours of daily television time and six hours of radio time should be handed over to him and his wife. This air time would be used by the "Dobroye Slovo" ["Kind Word"] bureau, set up by the Fomin family, which pledges, on the strength of that

word, to cover both Khasbulatov's own activities and those of the Russian Supreme Soviet as a whole. As everyone knows, even a cat appreciates a kind word, and so Fomin's proposals were stamped "urgent" and accompanied by stern resolutions from Khasbulatov: "To the Committee on the Mass Media. Please prepare a draft document, without delay..." That is, approve this madness, without delay and without stopping to think. Ostankino writes to point out that the proposals are invalid, demonstrating that ultimately they go against the president's decree instructing the company to cover life in the CIS countries, not only in Russia. The Committee on the Mass Media rejects Fomin's proposals by 19 votes out of the 20 present. And then? On Khasbulatov's instructions, they are incorporated in a draft Russian Supreme Soviet decision.

Let us add: The blacker the personality, the more dependent on it you become. Now to the last document. The brains behind Khasbulatov—retired Lieutenant Colonel Fomin—sends the parliamentary speaker written instructions: "Initiate an examination of the question of state policy in the mass media at the current Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session.... As far as possible, do not allow the text of the present letter to be seen by members of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on the Mass Media...."

Now for the conclusions that suggest themselves.

Russian Khasbulatov and a group of deputies loyal to him are acting according to a principle that has been tried out at the cost of our skins and washed in our blood: If I don't like it, it must be destroyed. Freedom of speech, freedom of the individual—all this presupposes the ability to accept and consent to things that you may not like. Neanderthal thinking requires the opposite: If your enemy will not surrender, you destroy him.

Second point. Many people think that morality and politics are incompatible. Maybe that is true. But on the other hand, I am certain that a politician to whom elementary moral principles are alien is an extremely dangerous person. That is why, after everything that has happened, I personally am unwilling to entrust my destiny to the lawmaker Khasbulatov. I don't advise you to do so either.

Last point. A journalist, if he is not totally without a sense of his own dignity, is always and inevitably in confrontation with someone or other. But to be honest, I cannot remember any such petty troublemaking in the past as this. The former rulers at least used to cover their shame with a fig leaf. Ruslan Khasbulatov couldn't even do that.

...As I write these lines, I do not yet know whether a discussion of the mass media will take place in the Supreme Soviet, or whether they will not venture to do that. In any case, I want to say this to the Supreme Soviet members. Today you are deputies—yesterday I was one too, a Union deputy. You have taken an interest in the mass media—I have been working in the media for

nearly four decades. You rely on your own experience of life—I have mine too. You are trying to call journalists to order—I have felt the effects of that all my life, starting with Suslov. So machinations over the press have never done anyone any good. It will all end in trouble. Do you know why? You can replace one chief editor with another. You can tear up Ostankino like an old blanket. You can even close IZVESTIYA. But no one will make thought stand still. And that is the reason why books cannot be burned.

List of Restricted Territories Confirmed

OW1007144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1259 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government has confirmed a list of territories in the Russian Federation allowed for restricted visiting by the foreigners. The resolution signed by the acting Premier Yegor Gaydar states that the receiving organizations must coordinate the entry of the foreign citizens to the Russian territory with a restricted visiting with the Russian Ministry of Security or with its local agencies.

The Committee on land-survey and cartography is charged with the task to issue administrative maps of the Russian Federation in 6 months, and a map of Moscow province "marking the territories with restricted visiting for foreign citizens and the automobile roads for transit tours of foreigners through these territories".

These maps together with the list of territories restricted for foreign visiting will be delivered to "diplomatic and consul missions accredited to Russian Federation" by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Zhirinovskiy To Seek Referendum on Borders

PM1607143792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Kornilov under the "Press Conference" rubric: "Mr. Zhirinovskiy Is Keen on a Referendum, While Mr. Belenovskiy Is Keen on War"]

[Text] The as-yet unregistered Association of Legality and Law and Order has held its first press conference, at the premises of the Moscow City Soviet. Representatives of the Academy of New Thinking, the Russian Communism [Sobornost] international foundation, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], and Moscow City Soviet Deputy S. Belashov spoke at it.

The small number of journalists who went to the press conference received an LDP appeal signed by Mr. Zhirinovskiy calling for a new referendum. Its objective is to reconstitute the Russian state within the 1977 borders of the USSR, to create a mixed type of economy in Russia where both market and state sectors would exist in parallel, to introduce the death penalty for the leadership

of criminal groups, and to adopt a new constitution for the Russian state detailing and developing the aforementioned democratic freedoms of Russian citizens and state decisions.

Mr. Belenovskiy, chairman of the association's steering committee, in particular, deems that the reconstitution of the Russian state within the 1977 borders of the USSR is intended without the use of military force, but that this cannot be excluded.

If the Russian leadership refuses to facilitate the holding of a referendum the Association of Legality and Law and Order will start collecting the 1 million citizens' signatures necessary to hold one.

MVD Collegium Statement on Status Viewed

PM1507093392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Taranov: "Ministry of Internal Affairs Collegium Reminds Parties and Movements that Militia Is Subject to Law Alone"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Collegium has issued an official statement which boils down to saying that "not a single party or political movement will succeed in making MVD staffers blindly obey another 'leading and guiding force.'"

The document does not state which particular parties and movements are staking a claim to the former CPSU's role with regard to the defenders of law and order. But phrases such as "the Collegium notes with alarm how... a negative image of militiamen as 'robots with nightsticks' ready to indiscriminately 'break up, arrest, and jail' is being formed" and "accusations of excessive cruelty and excessive license alternate with rebukes about an excessive lack of resolve and connivance" can easily be seen as complaints on the part of the militia leadership against the mass media.

The latest round in the argument about the role of the MVD and its structures in society flared up, as is well known, after the events outside the "Ostankino" TV Company. And the militia pleased neither the national communists (who ascribe the "bloody crimes" of 22 June 1992 to the Moscow Special-Purpose Militia Detachment) nor the guardians of Russian democracy, who believe that the militiamen's inaction during the siege of "Ostankino" was a symptom of the paralysis of executive power. Moreover, in the opinion of eminent democratic figures, the leadership of the Moscow Main Administration for Internal Affairs and the MVD is just waiting for the good old days to return....

Incidentally, I would reiterate that the Collegium statement says nothing about "Ostankino" and the events surrounding it; it is a generalized political declaration. "If any movement attempts to destabilize the situation or violate the country's Constitution, it will be opposed by the necessary internal affairs organs and by all the

legal means and methods at their disposal," the statement emphasizes. And it goes on: "...officers and internal forces employees, relying on the population's support, will act **more resolutely**...."

There could, of course, be doubts about whether the call to "steadfastly oppose legal nihilism" will be carried out in all particulars by the militia everywhere. But, clearly, the road to a more stable and law-governed society lies through a recognition by law enforcement organs of their political neutrality.

Excerpts From CPSU Archives Televised

LD1707085792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1720 GMT on 14 July carries the 27-minute "Special File" program which carries selected excerpts from the CPSU archives.

The unidentified narrator begins by describing how the party interfered in appointments. Documentary footage shows Academician Andrey Sakharov addressing a gathering, with USSR President Gorbachev in the background as the narrator recalls how the people never elected its leaders and never respected them. This is interspersed with footage of war scenes, the cosmonaut Yuriy Gagarin, a dam, and USSR President Leonid Brezhnev.

As accompanying video shows a room marked "Vault Number Nine" the narrator reads the following transcript of a telephone conversation between USSR Premier Aleksey Kosygin and Afghan Prime Minister Nur Muhammad Taraki. The date of the conversation is not given:

"Kosygin: Ask Comrade Taraki, perhaps he will outline the situation in Afghanistan.

"Taraki: The situation is bad and is getting worse.

"Kosygin: Do you have support among the workers, city dwellers, the petty bourgeoisie, and the white collar workers in Herat? Is there still anyone on your side?

"Taraki: There is no active support on the part of the population. It is almost wholly under the influence of Shiite slogans - follow not the heathens, but follow us. The propaganda is underpinned by this.

"Kosygin: Are there many workers there?

"Taraki: Very few—between 1,000 and 2,000 people in all.

"Kosygin: What are the prospects?

"Taraki: We are convinced that the enemy will form new units and will develop an offensive.

"Kosygin: Do you not have the forces to rout them?

"Taraki: I Wish it were the case.

"Kosygin: What, then, are your proposals on this issue?

"Taraki: We ask that you extend practical and technical assistance, involving people and arms.

"Kosygin: It is a very complex matter.

"Taraki: Iran and Pakistan are working against us, according to the same plan. Hence, if you now launch a decisive attack on Herat, it will be possible to save the revolution.

"Kosygin: The whole world will immediately get to know this. The rebels have portable radio transmitters and will report it directly.

"Taraki: I ask that you extend assistance.

"Kosygin: We must hold consultations on this issue. Do you not have connections with Iran's progressives? Can't you tell them that it is currently the United States that is your and their chief enemy? The Iranians are very hostile toward the United States and evidently this can be put to use as propaganda. What foreign policy activities or statements would you like to see coming from us? Do you have any ideas on this question, propaganda-wise?

"Taraki: Propaganda help must be combined with practical assistance. I suggest that you place Afghan markings on your tanks and aircraft and no one will be any the wiser. Your troops could advance from the direction of Kushka and from the direction of Kabul. In our view, no one will be any the wiser. They will think these are Government troops.

"Kosygin: I do not want to disappoint you, but it will not be possible to conceal this. Two hours later the whole world will know about this. Everyone will begin to shout that the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan has begun. If we quickly airlift tanks, the necessary ammunition and make mortars available to you, will you find specialists who can use these weapons?

"Taraki: I am unable to answer this question. The Soviet advisers can answer that.

"Kosygin: Hundreds of Afghan officers were trained in the Soviet Union. Where are they all now?

"Taraki: Most of them are Muslim reactionaries. We are unable to rely on them, we have no confidence in them."

"Kosygin: Can't you recruit a further 50,000 soldiers if we quickly airlift arms to you? How many people can you recruit?

"Taraki: The core can only be formed by older secondary school pupils, students, and a few workers. The working class in Afghanistan is very small, but it is a long affair to train them. But we will take any measures, if necessary.

"Kosygin: We have decided to quickly deliver military equipment and property to you and to repair helicopters and aircraft. All this is for free. We have also decided to deliver to you 100,000 tonnes of grain and to raise gas prices from \$21 per cubic meter to \$37.

"Taraki: That is very good, but let us talk of Herat. Why can't the Soviet Union send Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Turks in civilian clothing? No one will recognize them. We want you to send them. They could drive tanks, because we have all these nationalities in Afghanistan. Let them don Afghan costume and wear Afghan badges and no one will recognize them. It is very easy work, in our view. If Iran's and Pakistan's experience is anything to go by, it is clear that it is easy to do this work; they have already shown how it can be done.

"Kosygin: You are, of course, oversimplifying the issue. It is a complex political and international issue, but, irrespective of this, we will hold consultations again and will get back to you.

"Taraki: Send us infantry fighting vehicles by air.

"Kosygin: Do you have anyone to drive them?

"Taraki: We will find drivers for between 30 and 35 vehicles.

"Kosygin: Are they reliable? Won't they flee to the enemy, together with their vehicles? After all, our drivers do not speak the language.

"Taraki: Send vehicles together with drivers who speak our language—Tajiks and Uzbeks.

"Kosygin: I expected this kind of reply from you. We are comrades and are waging a common struggle and that is why we should not stand on ceremony with each other. Everything must be subordinate to this."

The narrator continues with the following remarks:

"The first page has a hand-written footnote: At the Central Committee Politburo's sitting on 19 March Comrade Kosygin read the transcript of these conversations in the presence of Central Committee secretaries.

Next, he introduces the following "extract from protocol number 176 of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo sitting of 6 December 1979, concerning the sending of a special unit to Afghanistan", which cites a request from Taraki's eventual successor Hafizullah Amin:

"Taking into account the situation that has emerged and Amin's request we deem it expedient to send to Afghanistan a special unit—trained for these purposes—of the General Staff's Chief Intelligence Directorate, numbering in total some 500 people, in uniforms which do not betray its membership of the USSR armed forces. The possibility of sending this unit to the DRA [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan] was envisaged by a CPSU Central Committee Politburo decision of 29 June 1979. In connection with the fact that the questions of the sending of the unit to Kabul have been agreed with the Afghan side, we regard it as possible to transfer it on board the military transport aviation planes during the first 10 days of December this year. Comrade Ustinov agrees. Signatures: Andropov, Ogarkov."

The narrator goes on to read a further extract, "from protocol number 177 of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo session, concerning an increase in the numerical strength of the USSR Armed Forces:

"The Ministry of Defense is to be allowed, in order to set up a group of Soviet troops in the DRA, to increase in 1980 the limit of the numerical strength by 50,000 servicemen and 2,000 civilian personnel, including 1,000 servicemen for the KGB of the USSR. Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Brezhnev."

There follow comments by named academics. Academician O.T. Bogomolov says that his institute's report described the invasion of Afghanistan as a mistake which would cause a whole number of problems internationally and economically. No reaction to the report followed. Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia are examples of how our interests had to be sacrificed to the doctrine, he says.

Yu.V. Gankovskiy, an employee of the Eastern Studies Institute, says that the armed forces chiefs Ogarkov, Akhromeyev, and Varennikov were against involving Soviet troops in Afghanistan, but they could not override Defense Minister Ustinov's wishes. He also says that information that was available at the time left a lot to be desired. People thought it would all soon be over. When it turned out we were unprepared, proper conclusions failed to be drawn in good time.

The narrator then reads the following extract, citing "the CPSU Central Committee on the publication in the media of materials concerning the operation of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan":

"In accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the KGB of the USSR, a list of reports on the operation of the limited contingent of Soviet troops on the DRA's territory which can be openly published has been worked out. The list is appended.

"The following will continue to be published and shown: Reports sanctioned earlier concerning the operation of the limited contingent of Soviet troops on the DRA's territory will continue to be published. The presence of units and subunits which form part of combined arms large units can be shown without specifying which specific large units, or districts they belong to and without specifying which units or subunits are relieving one another and without specifying their participation in combat operations.

The organization and course of combat training; the deployment in provisional military camps of military units, their every day activities; the staging of tactical exercises jointly with the DRA Armed Forces subunits on a scale no higher than battalion level; the visits to the Soviet units by the leaders of the Party and the Government of the DRA, by other Afghan delegations; the staging of measures of a party political nature; culture and mass activities; the awards to Soviet servicemen

without specifying their combat activities which provided the basis for the award; the use of standard issue weapons by individual Soviet servicemen, by squads and by platoons for self-defense purposes when attacked by rebels in the course of training sessions and exercises; individual and separate facts—no more than one a month—of Soviet servicemen sustaining injuries or loss of life in the course of carrying out their military duties, repelling rebel attacks or in mine explosions during mine-clearing operations—the phrase 'in mine explosions during mine-clearing operations' has been crossed out from the final version of the document. Publication of individual cases of heroic death—the final version reads 'activities'—of Soviet servicemen in the course of carrying out combat tasks, including when taken captive—this phrase has been crossed out from the final version of the document—is to be allowed additionally.

"Extensive publication is to be continued of counter-propaganda materials by Soviet and foreign authors, exposing the falsifications of the Western mass media."

The narrator then reads a CPSU Central Committee decision of 13 November 1986:

"In order to coordinate activities, to adopt operational decisions, to submit the necessary proposals concerning the Afghan issue and to settle the situation around Afghanistan, a CPSU Central Committee Politburo commission on Afghanistan has been formed. At the Commission's submission, the CPSU Central Committee has endorsed a comprehensive plan of our activities concerning Afghanistan for the years 1987 and 1988 which has been fully implemented. In this context it is deemed expedient to regard the work of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Commission on Afghanistan as at an end.

"The expenditure connected with the extension of free assistance is, in accordance with this instruction, to be expressed in Soviet rubles as part of the USSR state budget allocations for free aid to foreign states and it is to be expressed in foreign currency as part of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations hard currency allocations. Consent is to be given to supply Afghanistan in 1990 with 150 missiles for the R-17E missile system, two launchers for the Luna-M missile system, 380 tanks, 865 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers, 195 guns and mortars, 680 anti-aircraft guns and mounts, 1,000 rocket launchers, some 96,000 pieces of ammunition for small arms, 54 aircraft, six helicopters, ammunition, engineering equipment, transport and communication means, more than 1,500 multiple-use cargo parachute systems, property ... [fades out]"

Next, Farid Kayumi, described as a foreign affairs journalist and former Afghan citizen, says the war claimed 1,500,000 Afghans. He criticizes the regime that allowed this to happen. Communism came up against big problems when it tried to invade the world of Islam, he says.

He says he blames the CPSU for everything and that Brezhnev and his retinue wanted a buffer state in Afghanistan.

As video shows Brezhnev decorating Ustinov, the narrator speaks of "our boys who fell in the war". He concludes by saying:

"It was not our people, or our soldiers who fought the war—it was the CPSU. Let us hope they will never return, for we have forgotten nothing."

News Conference Focuses on Secret Monitoring

MK1107095592 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 9 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Ye. Kiseleva under the "Not At All Secret" rubric: "Spies Do Not Need 'Bugs'"]

[Text] It turns out that an electronic wall clock is sufficient for secret monitoring—I drew this conclusion on attending a news conference given by the "Avtomatika" Science and Production Association of the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information under the president of the Russian Federation. There the association's specialists spoke about one area of conversion—the development of means of protecting confidential information. Only two or three years ago apparatus for this purpose was used exclusively in state structures. The "Iskra" telephone communications system, for example, was one of these classified means. With the start of the transition to the market economy, however, a need arose for the security of confidential information in commercial structures as well. It is these that are now being offered the services and technical backup of the "Avtomatika" Science-and-Production Association—various complexes, apparatus for enciphered communications, and, in the long term, also a new generation of cipher techniques.

Journalists discovered a very interesting detail—it turns out that all conversations can be monitored excellently not only during a telephone dialogue but also in a room where there is simply a telephone. For secret monitoring it is also sufficient to have in the room a radio receiver, an electronic wall clock, or even burglar and fire alarms.

Is it possible in that case to avoid the presence of an "outside ear" during business discussions, say, and is it possible to keep a commercial secret? Yes, specialists of the science and production association maintain, and they exhibited equipment to guard against various kinds of monitoring. But "Avtomatika" offers, above all, a wide range of information backup—communications systems, including satellite communications, electronic mail, and access to various data bases.

Letters, Commentary Bemoan Army's Plight

PM1607152792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

[Readers' letters, commentary by military correspondent A. Khokhlov under the general heading: "From the Taiga to the British Seas, Our Army Is the Poorest of Them All"—first six paragraphs are readers' letters]

[Text] "All form of payment to officers at a unit subordinate to the Russian Defense Ministry and stationed in Priozersk, Dzhezkazgan Oblast, has been suspended. The servicemen's families are in a terrible position, and officers discharged to the reserve and transferred to other units in connection with the elimination of our unit are going hungry. We are unable to visit our places of residence or service. We would ask the editorial office to draw the public's attention to this situation. [Signed] Rozman, chairman of the Officers' Assembly. 582 signatures in all. Priozersk"

"Here is a letter from some soldiers.

"Our battalion has found itself in debt due to the severe economic situation in the country. We have not been paid for several months. The soldiers have been dispersed around the Saratov steppe in collective farms, state farms, and peasant villages, looking after sheep. They often lack normal living conditions and, forgive me, live like down-and-outs.

"We have all served for 18 months and are being discharged this fall. And we are tormented by the question of how we will get home. After all, most of us do not have a penny to our names—worse, we are in debt. Even though we work like any normal person and earn money. For instance, two soldiers were demobilized this spring and were issued with 39 rubles [R] each. But they had to get to Volgograd.

"Some soldiers from areas nearby have gone home (with their battalion commander's permission). They have found work and remit money to the unit every month (R2,000 each). Where is this money going? After all, people's pay has been stopped. Maybe it would be better to just send the men home to earn money—because there are no well-paid jobs to be had in our area. We now have to earn R2,500 each simply to clear our debts.

"In general, our position is terrible, and we would ask you to help us get out of it. [Signed] Military construction workers. 65 signatures. Saratov Oblast"

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Commentary

On 10 July Transcaucasus Military District airborne assault troops, carrying out orders from their immediate superiors, transported communications equipment from Kumayri (Armenia) to Kutaisi (Georgia). Around 60 Armenian gunmen disarmed the Russian soldiers, and five soldiers who had left the convoy early were killed. The Russian and Armenian Foreign Ministries

exchanged statements, and the military mumbled something. An investigation is under way but, as is usual now, it will most probably prove fruitless.

The same day some hotheads from the paramilitary "Kaitseliit" organization in Estonia took three Russian officers hostage on the road from Haapsalu to Tallinn. Without waiting for notes to be exchanged at head-of-state level, Air Defense troop commanders sent hundreds of soldiers to save their colleagues. After a one-hour firefight the hostages were freed and several gunmen were seized...

While swearing that they love democratic Russia, democratic neighbors from the formerly "fraternal" republics are increasingly frequently and persistently encroaching upon the property, weapons, and lives of the men of its Armed Forces. Moldovan units have shelled 14th Army installations in the Dniester Region. Border guards in Tajikistan are fighting on two fronts. "Whom do we serve and why?" is a question that is being asked in virtually every letter which the editorial office receives from the Army.

The Army is again being forced to clear up the mess caused by politicians' stupidity, as was the case three and five years ago. Back then it was being sent onto the streets of Tbilisi, Baku, and Vilnius at night. And legal action was later taken against armored personnel carrier drivers. Now the one-half of the 14th Army which is still under Russian jurisdiction is being fired upon by weapons "gifted" to Moldova by the other half. And is nobody to blame?

We have gotten used to being frightened by stories of plotting generals. But it would be immoral to fail to recognize that the Army's current position is a tragedy. Its ills mostly stem from the past—lack of accommodations and pay for officers, and the burdens (probably the toughest in the world) of soldiering. But many new aspects have appeared too—the problem of the troops' status, the "privatization" of weapons, and the belittling of people in uniform. Without wishing to play the prophet, if there were a political or social explosion in the Armed Forces, it would be led not by Moscow generals, but by captains and majors. By those in the Northern Fleet who have not received their salaries for several months, by those in Nakhichevan who are today mourning the deaths of their friends in an air crash, and by those in the Baltics who have turned into "occupiers" stripped of all human rights.

Here are some recent news agency reports. In Sevastopol there is conflict around the Military Commandant's Office—the commandant took the Ukrainian oath and Admiral Kasatonov sent a platoon of marines to guard the Military Commandant's Office building. The Daugavpils city authorities (Latvia) have unilaterally decided to "privatize" three military installations, and the soldiers have been told to "clear out" by 20 July. The legendary 62d Army, which distinguished itself during the defense of Stalingrad, is being disbanded. It will be withdrawn from Germany this year, but the local authorities in Volgograd are refusing to receive it. Its colors will be sent to a museum for storage...

But where can you send people?

Gorizont Communications Satellite Launched

LD1607080192 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 0730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent from the flight control center]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—On 15 July another "Gorizont" communications satellite was launched from Baykonur cosmodrome by means of a "Proton" rocket carrier. This launch was part of the program for the further development of communications and television transmissions using satellites in the interests of the Ministry of Communications of the Russian Federation. It has been placed in a geostationary orbit with the following initial parameters: distance from Earth's surface, 36,567 kms; period of revolution, 24 hours, 36 minutes; orbital inclination, 1.4 degrees. The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

Cosmonauts Continue Experiments on Mir

LD1507210592 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network*
in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] After operations connected with installing new hydroscopic stabilizers on the Kvant-2 module, Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Kaleri are continuing to implement the planned flight program. The latest series of measurements of space radiation spectra of various wavelengths have been carried out in accordance with the plan for astrophysical research. A number of experiments to determine the effect of open space factors on the characteristics of constitutional materials have been conducted. At the same time, the crew is unloading the Progres-M13 automatic craft. Among the equipment transported into orbit by the spacecraft is scientific apparatus destined for research on the upcoming Russo-French flight. According to the schedule of operations for Progres-M13, the fuel tanks of the station's combined engine unit will be refilled today.

Mir Cosmonauts Complete Unscheduled 'Overhaul'

PM1007143792 Moscow *Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino*
Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT
8 Jul 92

[Video report by A. Gerasimov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows spacecraft] [Gerasimov] The crew of "Mir," the Russian space station, on 8 July made an unscheduled EVA [Extravehicular Activity]. It's become so expensive to keep the by no means new complex in the desired position in orbit that Mission Control decided to undertake an unusual overhaul operation. Specialists used part of one of the station's compartments to install gyroscopes—stabilizer devices which can only operate in a vacuum. So Aleksandr Kaleri and Aleksandr Viktorenko have today been bringing these gyroscopes into contact with space. Put more simply, they opened one of the station's refueling valves. Admittedly, they did this at the second attempt—the notches were in the wrong place, and the

thermal insulation came first [nadrezov ne v tom meste, teploizolastiyu v pervyy raz]. Mission Control didn't mind—this scar on the TV complex will not affect its health at all. As compensation for their difficult two-hour job, before returning to the station the cosmonauts were given the chance to test out a kind of pair of binoculars for surveying the area around the station—which they were only too happy to do. [video shows EVA]

Further Details on Military Harvest Battalions

PM1607195092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Viktor Stebelev: "Battalions Go Into Battle for Harvest"]

[Text] In accordance with Russian President B. Yeltsin's decree, the Defense Ministry is forming truck battalions to take part in the harvesting campaign.

Under the military leadership's plans, there will be 40 of these battalions. Thirty-six of them will be manned by drivers drafted in from the reserve. Four battalions will be operated by drivers who are serving soldiers.

Each battalion will consist of 500 vehicles, so a total of 20,000 units of motor transport allocated by the Defense Ministry will go into action. The ministry will also assume all responsibility for supplying spare parts for all the motor vehicles.

Compared with previous years, this year's harvest toil is of an entirely new nature for the military. Contracts will be concluded with farms, under which the leaders pledge to

provide the allocated battalions with work. Second, the military will carry out preliminary, "reconnaissance" operations locally, to identify the farms' real needs as regards equipment, because formerly many leaders, to be on the safe side, used to demand far bigger forces than they really needed. Third, the soldiers will receive full wages. Tariffs have already been drawn up by the Defense Ministry Central Financial Directorate whereby military drivers, in addition to their wage, are guaranteed bonuses of between 25 and 100 percent of their basic wage. As for the drivers drafted from the reserve, they retain their average wage from their previous job, not counting the money they receive for work on the harvest.

It is planned to continue the motorized assault until November. The assumption is that as the harvest reaches its height, more and more forces will be brought in to join the "battle for the harvest." Military transport aircraft, in particular.

Grain, Pulse Harvesting Statistics as of 13 Jul

PM1607204292 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Russian State Committee for Statistics: "Harvest of Grain and Pulse Crops (Not Including Corn) on Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes, and Other Agricultural Enterprises of the Russian Federation as of 13 July 1992"]

[Text] [In the following table, columns A to E represent the following: A—"Area reaped"; B—"Area reaped by 15 July 1991"; C—"Area threshed"; D—"As percentage of area reaped"; E—"Area threshed by 15 July 1991"; all these are in thousands of hectares]

	A	B	C	D	E
Russian Federation	1,407.3	7,983.7	957.2	68.0	6,255.2
Central Chernozem Region	13.5	783.3	0.5	—	344.0
Belgorod Oblast	1.4	73.6	—	—	12.4
Voronezh Oblast	10.4	462.8	0.5	—	258.3
Kursk Oblast	0.4	22.8	—	—	0.5
Tambov Oblast	1.3	116.1	—	—	30.7
Volga Region	160.2	2,247.8	113.5	70.8	1,768.5
Republic of Kalmykia/Khalm Tangch	102.5	245.3	77.5	75.6	233.4
Astrakhan Oblast	21.9	49.3	20.0	91.1	48.0
Volgograd Oblast	35.7	955.0	16.0	44.9	842.4
North Caucasus Region	1,231.9	4,574.6	841.5	68.3	4,014.9
Republic of Adygeya	19.4	67.9	16.4	84.4	57.4
Republic of Dagestan	43.1	98.5	40.4	93.7	96.8
Kabardino-Balkar Republic	14.0	55.8	7.9	56.1	50.6
North Ossetian SSR	9.9	40.8	5.2	52.6	38.5
Republic of Checheno-Ingushetia	15.0	92.8	12.4	82.5	33.6
Krasnodar Kray	456.9	1,234.7	365.5	80.0	1,121.9
Stavropol Kray	315.6	1,033.3	199.8	63.3	962.9
Rostov Oblast	357.8	1,948.4	193.9	54.2	1,590.9
Kaliningrad Oblast	1.6	0.9	1.6	100	0.9

Foreign Trade Regulation System Effective Sep

OW1707020092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1608 GMT 16 Jul 92

["Point of View" from the 17 July "Trade & Investment" feature: "New Foreign Trade Regulations Will 'Become Fully Effective' by September, Russian Minister Says"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The new system of foreign trade regulation will be "fully effective" by September, Mr. Petr Aven, Russia's Minister for External Economic Ties, has told an INTERFAX [IF] correspondent. "The enterprises having the right to trade in strategically important raw materials will be identified within two weeks' time", he said.

Mr. Aven denied allegations that only state-owned foreign-trade associations will be granted the right to sell these commodities. "We would be happy to see in this list the names of both joint ventures and foreign companies represented in Russia", he went on.

The minister confirmed that the government intends to press for having COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] lift its restrictions on imports of advanced technologies to Russia, which have survived from the time of cold war, and will actively protect the interests of Russian exporters. In particular, Mr. Aven said the government has signed a contract with a U.S. law firm to represent Russian uranium exporters. The government plans to follow the legal procedures established in the U.S. in order to prove that accusations that Russia exports uranium at subsidized prices are groundless.

Asked about the possibility of applying the value-added tax [VAT] to exports, Mr. Aven said the matter had been considered by the government. The International Monetary Fund had insisted that VAT on exports and import tariffs be introduced simultaneously. The government, however, decided that two new taxes would have an adverse effect on foreign trade and opted for import tariffs.

For his part Mr. Aven had advocated the view that "VAT, not the import tariff, should be the introduced first". This view did not prevail and the choice was made in favor of a smaller increase in taxation: the import tax is in the most cases levied at the rate of 5%, which is several times less than the 28% rate at which the VAT is levied. After a macroeconomic stabilization is achieved, however, the government will once more consider the question of imposing VAT on exports.

Among other things, the import tariff will make things more difficult for those who engage in "make-believe" exports in order to avoid paying tax on value added [as received] within the country, Mr. Aven believes.

Mr. Aven told IF that he does not support a blanket ban on trade for foreign exchange, because the ban would be difficult to enforce. Besides, a fixed exchange rate of the ruble does not yet exist. Russia's Central Bank issued instructions in February which obligated hard currency shops to sell goods both for currency and for rubles. Mr.

Aven said that even these instructions are still being violated, but was confident the government would "ensure by all means" that these shops will accept both hard currency and rubles.

The minister expressed regret that the recently enacted Law on Foreign Exchange Regulation had not given equal rights to residents and non-residents. The government will push for the law to be appropriately amended. Mr. Aven also said that the Central Bank has drawn up instructions giving East European non-residents the same rights to conduct transactions involving both rubles and foreign exchange as are enjoyed by residents, which—in his view—is an important step towards making the ruble convertible.

Speaking about Russia's economic links with the rest of the Commonwealth, the minister confirmed that, in accordance with existing agreements, other CIS countries have until October 1 to take a "political" decision whether to remain in the ruble area.

They should either withdraw from the ruble area and introduce their own currencies or recognize the exclusive right of the Central Bank of Russia to issue money and provide credits, as well as its powers to regulate activities of local commercial banks.

On the other hand, Russia will have to agree [as received] the most important decisions with other members of the ruble area, Mr. Aven emphasized. In order to formulate a single monetary policy, a Board of Directors of the Central Bank is to be created, with representation of all other members of the ruble area.

The need to re-introduce the principle of "one currency area—one central bank" has arisen from unilateral steps taken by central banks of republics, which have acquired a destabilizing character in the last two to three months, Mr. Aven declared. For example, the Ukraine carried out a credit expansion of Rb [rubles] 500 bn [billion] in May and June alone, which is equal to the value of the republic's annual GNP". [no opening quotation marks as received]

Mr. Aven identified the Ukraine and Azerbaijan as republics most likely to leave the ruble area. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, he said, will most probably remain in it. "Central Asian republics will remain in the ruble area in the short-term, but a longer-term perspective of their membership is unclear", he said.

Deadline for Ruble Decision Confirmed as 1 Oct

OW1607122892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1030 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Minister for External Economic Ties Peter Aven has confirmed in an interview with INTERFAX that in line with available understandings, the CIS countries are to make a "political" decision over their stay in the ruble

zone by October 1st. Should a country leave the ruble zone and adopt a national currency, it will have to recognize the exclusive right of the Central Bank of Russia to credit and monetary emission and its regulating functions in regard to local commercial banks, the minister said. [sentence as received]

However, Mr. Aven remarked, membership in the ruble zone will also require from Russia "concerted responsible decisions" with partners. A board of directors, representatives of independent states included, is planned to be set up at the Central Bank of Russia to coordinate a single credit monetary policy.

Mr. Aven called Ukraine and Azerbaijan as the most likely candidates to drop out of the ruble zone. He believes that Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will most probably join the ruble club. The other Asian republics will in a short-term prospective stay, "but the long-term prospective of their membership is not clear"—the minister said.

Goals of Currency-Economic Commission Detailed

LD1607092392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0718 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The main goal of the Currency-Economic Commission (CEC) set up at the Russian Government is to invite and rationally use foreign credits, Russian Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev, CEC deputy chairman, told the ITAR-TASS news agency here today.

He noted that the commission is to orchestrate operations on spending currency in the market sphere in the present situation with the payments balance and to bear responsibility on an interdepartmental basis.

It also tackles problems on repaying foreign debts, including the servicing of interest on credits which now totals about 385 million dollars.

According to Nechayev, the commission gives government guarantees on commercial credits and examines the drafts of major trade and economic contracts and deals involving foreign investments and the government's participation. The administration and the use of the republican currency reserve are among its important functions.

Despite a sharp drop in centralized currency revenues, the commission manages to maintain imports and the repayment of debts at an adequate level. "We give preference to self-repaying projects, on which normal foreign economic operations are based," Nechayev noted.

Nechayev Accuses Parliament of Incompetence

OW1607203192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Economics Minister Aleksandr Nechayev said in an interview with Interfax that "parliament had not only demonstrated its incompetence, but its complete lack of responsibility" by increasing budget expenditure, according to preliminary estimates, by 700-800 mn [million] rubles.

The Russian parliament adopted an amendment to the 1992 budget on Thursday [16 July], but postponed its final decision until Friday.

Nechayev described as "mythical" the sum of 1 trn [trillion] 300 bn [billion] rubles, by which the parliamentary budget planning commission claims the budget revenue can be increased.

The Economics Minister pointed out that talks with the International Monetary Fund on advancing Russia new credits will be doomed to failure, if expenditure increases push up the budget deficit, which is already 10% more than the GNP.

Gerashchenko Possible Central Bank Candidate

LD1607201492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1519 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 16 Jul—Viktor Gerashchenko, who headed the USSR State Bank last year, is a possible candidate for the post of chairman of the Russian Central Bank. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned this from an informed source within the parliament's planning and budget commission. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet

Suspension of Treaty With Estonia Urged

LD1707102692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0932 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul—The Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on 17 July "On Human Rights in Estonia" and a statement "On Human Rights in the Baltic States."

Concerned about the fact that individual provisions of the Constitution of the Estonian Republic and a number of laws and decisions by the Estonian Supreme Council adopted after the treaty, "On the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations Between the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and Estonian Republic," of 12 January 1991 was signed and ratified, and that the practical activity of Estonian Republic's state institutions grossly violate articles of the above treaty, the

Russian parliament drew the Russian Federation Government's attention to "the impermissibility of deviation from the spirit and letter of the treaty in the process of talks between the Russian Federation's and the Estonian Republic's state delegations."

The decision prescribes "to regard settling the issues related to citizenship, ensuring rights and freedoms of citizens of one side on the other side's territory, and protecting the rights of ethnic minorities as the main task at the talks."

If the practice of crude violation of human rights continues in Estonia, the Russian Government is instructed to raise this question at the UN Organization for discussion during the current session of the General Assembly, up to and including demanding the application of international economic sanctions against Estonia. It is also instructed to examine the question of introducing temporary economic sanctions against the Republic of Estonia if the Estonian authorities continue to discriminate against ethnic Russians.

The appropriate parliamentary committees of the Russian Supreme Soviet are instructed to draw up, by 20 September, a draft decision of the Russian parliament on the temporary suspension of the state treaty between Russia and Estonia.

The statement by the Russian parliament stresses that the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation "resolutely repudiates the inclusion in the legislative acts of the Baltic states of articles that make discrimination on grounds of nationality the norm and that lead to an increase in social and political tension and have a negative influence on regional stability."

Consular Institutions Required in Estonia

LD1707114292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A decision on human rights in Estonia has been adopted on 17 July at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session. The Russian Government must immediately resolve the issue of allocating funds to guarantee the operation of the Russian Embassy and to open consular institutions in areas of Estonia that are densely populated by a Russian or Russian-speaking population.

Extra Battalion for UN Forces in FRY Viewed

LD1707091392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0820 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has presented, for urgent examination by the Russian parliament, a draft decision of the Supreme Soviet on allocating an additional Russian military contingent to the UN forces in Yugoslavia. Parliament has included this question on its agenda for the 17 July session.

The explanatory materials of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which have been circulated to the deputies, state that the UN secretary general has made an urgent request to Russia to allocate to the UN forces in Yugoslavia an additional single infantry battalion of 400 men.

The UN secretary general's appeal, the explanatory materials note, is testimony to Russia's high political prestige and recognition of the positive role being played by our battalion, which is already participating in settling the conflict in Yugoslavia. All the costs linked with sending military contingents to the UN forces are born by the United Nations Organization, the materials state.

Central Bank Chairman's Resignation Accepted

LD1607140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Russian Parliament on Thursday [16 July] satisfied the appeal for resignation "due to the worsening health", submitted by chairman of Russian Central Bank, Georgiy Matiyukhin.

16 Jul Session Proceedings Detailed

LD1707131992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1938 GMT on 16 July carries the 38-minute "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session" program, on proceedings at the 16 July session chaired by Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The first item on the agenda is the budget system. The first speaker, Finance Minister Vasilii Barchuk, makes a four-minute speech on the draft law on the budget system and amendments to it.

Next, Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of a sub-commission, delivers a 10-minute address on the amendments to the draft law, on the gloomy economic situation, and its negative affect on the budget system. He voices support for the government's policy in this sphere.

Next, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar takes the floor. He speaks in an 11-minute address on the disputes surrounding the budget for 1992 and the government's fiscal policy. (filed as referent item)

Polunina, chairman of the Control and Budget Committee, in an eight-minute speech reports on the committee's work and criticizes the government's policy in the budget sphere.

Minister for Economics Nechayev then speaks on the recession in production and on debts in national economy due to price rises.

The second item on the agenda concerns a bill on the structure of the government. A resolution on the draft law on the Council of Ministers is put to the vote and

passed. The decision is taken to set up a working group to prepare the draft law. The list of the working group is then read out.

Deputies Criticize Effects of Deepening Reform

PM1407142592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 14 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary observer Robert Minasov report from Moscow's White House: "Fourth Session of Russian Supreme Soviet: Main Danger Is Slump in Production"]

[Text] Yesterday, parliamentary hearings were held in the Supreme Soviet of Nationalities conference hall on the government program for deepening economic reform. The hearings were held on the initiative of the "Industrial Union," "Workers' Union," "Smena—New Politics" and "Free Russia" factions.

Sergey Polozkov, the coordinator of the "Smena—New Politics" faction, who was the first to speak, sharply criticized the new government program.

S. Polozkov described as blasphemy the government statement to the effect that the economy has not collapsed. He said that the government now owes 150 billion rubles in wages.

The faction's coordinator cast doubt on the government's position on the credit and finance system, investment policy, and conversion—in short, in all areas.

In Polozkov's opinion, the government has chosen the classic Latin American way of breaking economic deadlock. This kind of program is beneficial only to comprador forces. Last, the deputy said, the government is endeavoring to pursue that kind of economic policy because it is afraid of losing its seats.

Andrey Belousov of the Institute for the National Economy and Forecasting was more moderate and discriminating in his opinions. He drew the audience's attention to the main provisions of the report entitled "The Economic Situation in the CIS and Alternative Economic Policies." It emerges from Belousov's speech that the main result of the government's policy of price liberalization and openness for the Russian economy is a radical restructuring of the national economy. Two sectors are in actual fact emerging—an export and raw materials sector linked to the world economy, and a stagnating economy oriented on the domestic market.

Most of the population, the speaker forecast, will find themselves removed from consumption of high technology commodities—domestic electrical goods, washing machines, refrigerators, automobiles, etc. In this situation, the relevant sectors will inevitably collapse. A similar situation can be traced in the light and food industries. According to Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for Forecasting figures, in 1992 metallurgical production will decline by up to 27 percent, the investment complex will decline by 31 percent, and the light

and food industries will decline 33 and 21 percent respectively. The population will sustain the greatest losses, since their real income will drop 26 percent and consumption will fall 13 percent.

In the future, a decline of up to 25 percent, primarily in the consumer complex and agriculture, awaits the Russian economy.

Belousov thinks that it is therefore necessary to exempt agriculture and construction totally from value added tax and to reduce it to 20 percent in other sectors.

The speaker believes that the main problem lies in the gulf between supply and the ultimate demand for output. He considers the following to be the main steps needed to maintain demand and provide production incentives: the maintenance of pay indexation (at 90 percent of the increase in consumer prices), which in turn presupposes tax adjustments on the level of pay; indexation of depreciation at 70-75 percent of the price increase in capital construction; and provision of incentives for production and investments using profits taxation.

Belousov considers that one of the main measures is a temporary rise in the rate of profits taxation to 55 percent until stabilization starts.

Deputies Accused of 'Corruption'

OW1407152992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1206 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy-Chairman of Russia's parliamentary committee on foreign affairs and economic links Iona Andronov has charged "some deputies" without naming them of "corruption and business activities". In Tuesday's [14 July] debate in the Supreme Soviet on the work of the interparliamentary group he said that one of his committee's members was a millionaire, and another—a multimillionaire.

Iona Andronov and some other deputies also questioned the principles of choosing officials for trips abroad pointing out that the 131 members of the interparliamentary group have gone on 189 various foreign trips this year.

The speaker of the Republic's chamber Nikolay Ryabov laid down his duties as chairman of the interparliamentary group in response to Andronov's remark that the group ought to be led by "an honest and decent man". His resignation was declined, though, by the speaker of the Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov who admitted at the same time that the matter of foreign trips should be thoroughly investigated.

Debate Over IZVESTIYA's Role Continues

Adoption of Draft 'Impossible'

PM1607190092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 3

["Findings of the Parliamentary Committee on the Mass Media on the Draft Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution 'On the Newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR,'" signed by committee chairman V.I. Bragin; undated; under the general heading "Frontal Attack on Freedom of Speech Is an Encroachment on Russian Democracy": "Any Attempt To Change the Status of IZVESTIYA Is Unlawful"]

[Text] Having examined said draft resolution, the committee deems its adoption by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to be impossible on the following grounds:

1. The draft contains internal contradictions. Thus, the preamble to the document declares the founding of the newspaper IZVESTIYA as it now stands to be unlawful. Point 2 recognizes the de facto existence of said publication and Point 1 envisages "publishing a newspaper of the Russian Federation's representative organs of power" on "the basis of... the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR." What does "on the basis of the newspaper" mean? On the basis of the present editorial collective, on the basis of the trademark "IZVESTIYA," on the basis of the newspaper's subscribers, on the basis of IZVESTIYA's 75 years of history? If it is a question of creating a new newspaper with a different name and a different collective of journalists, what does the "basis of the newspaper" have to do with it? Obviously the draft resolution is in effect aimed at a transformation of the newspaper IZVESTIYA as it now stands.

2. The thesis on the rights of the Russian Supreme Soviet as legal heir to the founder of the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR is open to debate. It is true that under the decisions adopted the Russian Supreme Soviet is the legal heir to the property formerly under the ownership and in the possession of the USSR Supreme Soviet. But the status of founder is not a property matter. The highest organs of representative power of all the republics of the former USSR could equally lay claim to it.

However, the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" (like the equivalent Union Law, incidentally) does not stipulate any automatic inheritance of the status of founder of mass media organs. Article 18 of the Law states: "In the event of the abolition of reorganization of the founder—be it an association of citizens, enterprise, institution, organization, or state body—its rights and duties are transferred in full to the editorial office." In this instance the editorial collective exercised its rights and, incidentally, the USSR Supreme Soviet, as founder, filed no complaints on this point.

3. It must be borne in mind that any attempt arbitrarily to change IZVESTIYA's legal status will inevitably be rejected both by the newspaper's readers, who have subscribed to this specific publication, and by the journalists' collective. It is not hard to imagine the reactions nationwide and abroad. Especially since, in the public eye, the IZVESTIYA situation will be seen in the context of the conflict between the Russian Federation chairman and the newspaper's editorial office, which came out into the open in the course of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies. It is quite obvious that the situation which has arisen goes beyond the bounds of a purely legal clash and is taking on a patently political character.

4. The very idea of creating some kind of newspaper of the "Russian Federation's representative organs of power" appears unproductive. It is contrary to the positive trend of dismantling state ownership and monopolization of the mass media. The emergence of another publication "under the auspices" of the Supreme Soviet would be a mistake. Apart from anything else, it would mean large additional appropriations from the state budget.

5. At the same time the reports cited in the draft resolution and in the attached legal document regarding violations of the Law that took place at the time of the creation of the IZVESTIYA concern merit a careful study and appropriate legal response.

In view of the aforesaid, the committee recommends:

- that the draft Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution "On the Newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR" be removed from consideration;
- that the materials presented on the formation of the IZVESTIYA concern be subjected to additional scrutiny and that the situation be resolved in accordance with the procedure laid down by law.

The committee is forced to draw the attention of the Supreme Soviet leadership to the irregularity of examining such important documents and submitting them to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium without consulting the committee responsible for the mass media sphere.

Draft Decree Renamed

LD1607211992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT
16 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tomorrow the Russian parliament is to examine the issue of the press. It is true to say, according to a report from the RIA agency, that the name of the draft decree of the parliamentary presidium has been changed. The draft is now called: On economic support and legal guarantees for the media. Perhaps this alteration also reflects a change in the atmosphere amongst parliamentarians influenced by the latest events.

Deputies Insist on Agenda Inclusion

OW1607211792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax has received information that a whole line up of Deputies has insisted that "Izvestia" be included in the agenda for Friday's [17 July] session of parliament. One of the members of the parliamentary media committee, who wished to remain anonymous, told us that serious discord reigns within the provisional commission authorised by the 6th Congress of Deputies to prepare the mass media question for debate by the Supreme Soviet.

He said that the chairman of the media committee, who is heading the provisional commission, Vyacheslav Bragin, plus the committee as a whole, considers the debate of the Izvestia question illegal. However, the deputy chairman of the commission, Vladimir Lisin, has taken a directly opposing stance.

Before becoming a permanent member of the Supreme Soviet, Lisin was a Pravda correspondent in Nizhny Novgorod. The same source said that Lisin was personally interested in the Supreme Soviet adopting the draft resolution on "Izvestia" which envisages the renewal of the newspaper's status as a publication of the Councils of People's Deputies in as much as he expected to get one of the key posts on its editorial board.

Lisin himself rejected this assertion in an interview with Interfax, saying that at that time he was prepared, if necessary, to come before a session of the Supreme Soviet with proof of the many legislative infractions that occurred after the August coup over the registration of the new Izvestia, whose staff had become its founders.

'Open Letter' to Prosecutor

PM1607192892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Undated open letter to Russian Federation General Prosecutor V.G. Stepankov from I.I. Golembiovskiy, chief editor of IZVESTIYA; Yu.F. Yefremov, director of IZVESTIYA Publishing House; and I.D. Laptev, director of the IZVESTIYA Concern; under the general heading "Frontal Attack on Freedom of Speech Is an Encroachment on Russian Democracy": "Prosecutor's Investigation With Political Subtext"]

[Text] To Russian Federation General Prosecutor V.G. Stepankov

Esteemed Valentin Georgiyevich!

Since 4 June this year, Senior Prosecutor Vera Sergeyevna Kulagina has been working at your behest in the various structures of the IZVESTIYA newspaper and publications concern. We hope that Mrs. Kulagina has no complaints about us as the chiefs of IZVESTIYA's

various subdivisions or about our workers—she was given access to all the documents she requested which were in our possession, and all the information we had on questions of interest to her. In other words, we believe that the most propitious working regime possible was created for your representative.

So how much greater was our perplexity over everything which resulted from this investigation. Let us leave aside the fact that Prosecutor Kulagina did not present us with any kind of warrant from the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office to conduct this investigation, nor did she draw up a single statement for the removal of documents, or record or file a single conversation conducted within IZVESTIYA's walls—we do not consider ourselves experts in procedural niceties, and it could be that this is how things were supposed to be done. But we were deeply wounded and insulted by a point of morality in connection with this investigation, which was conducted, it seemed to us, in complete confidence and according to fairly standard prosecutor's practice. It was only through a telephone call from PRAVDA's editorial office that we learned that Prosecutor Kulagina had lodged a protest against the act of registration of the IZVESTIYA concern, even though, had she informed us of her conclusions, we, without any protest being lodged, would immediately have rectified any violations, if such there be, or simply re-registered the concern afresh.

But this was not the chief surprise. In precisely the same way, without familiarizing us even in general terms with the findings of the investigation, Mrs. Kulagina submitted yet another finding to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—this time on the newspaper IZVESTIYA, its founding, the legal succession, the creation of the IZVESTIYA Editorial Office Limited Partnership, and so on. We trust that you have the report which was compiled on the basis of the month-long activity of Prosecutor Kulagina and published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 July this year. The fact that the said report does not stand up to even the slightest criticism is only part of the problem. The real problem is that this kind of "document" misleads the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Supreme Soviet. On the basis of this "report" they will have to make a decision which basically explodes onto an already volatile and unstable society! You can see for yourselves the kind of things that are flaring up on the basis of Mrs. Kulagina's deductions, and you yourselves can judge the significance both of a "social imperative" on IZVESTIYA and of its practical implementation.

Why did Prosecutor Kulagina, having completed the investigation, not consider it possible to familiarize IZVESTIYA's leadership with the findings? Were the violations she uncovered so terrible (although they are hotly disputed by other legal experts), or was it that she only wanted to "report back" on the specified deadline?

Why did Prosecutor Kulagina allow information to be leaked, and why did she give an interview on the protest which is being lodged before it even reached the Moscow Registration Chamber?

Why did Prosecutor Kulagina submit to the Supreme Soviet the incomplete and in some cases simply inaccurate information cited in the aforementioned report? True, it was not signed by Kulagina, but Kulagina was familiar with this report, and she made no remarks about its text either during the meeting with Comrade Ryabov or at the Supreme Soviet Presidium session.

"Why's" like these, Valentin Georgiyevich, crop up too often.

We request that our appeal to you, General Prosecutor, be viewed as a resolute protest against Prosecutor Kulagina's work methods and against her allowing the findings of the investigation carried out at your behest to be used in the political struggle. Let us stress: These findings give other legal experts cause for doubt, and they have not yet been confirmed by expert analysis or, more importantly, the courts.

[Signed] With respect,

I.I. Golembiovskiy, chief editor of the newspaper IZVESTIYA;

Yu.F. Yefremov, director of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House;

I.D. Laptev, director of the IZVESTIYA Concern.

Committee Official on Issue

LD1607200792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Committee for the Media of the Russian Supreme Soviet is opposed to the IZVESTIYA issue being examined during this session. Here is what Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Mass Media Committee, told our correspondent Nikolay Artemyev:

[Begin Bragin recording] You know that on 16 July, when the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet examined the IZVESTIYA issue, it failed to reach a definite decision. It was handed over for further examination by the committees and commissions. IZVESTIYA journalists held a meeting. Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov, Chairman of the Chamber of the Republic was instructed to report the position of the Supreme Soviet Presidium to the meeting; as chairman of the committee I attended the meeting as well. I was also instructed to take part in the meeting. Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin, Minister of the Press and Mass Media, was also there. The people who spoke at the meeting were exceptionally severe and critical in their appraisal of the haste with which the issue had been presented, seemingly without preparation, at the session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. The IZVESTIYA staff gave a very accurate assessment of the situation and decided that the issue was neither a legal one nor a question of ownership so much as a political issue.

The committee agrees with this assessment of the situation surrounding IZVESTIYA and when the committee sat today we examined the draft decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the IZVESTIYA newspaper and deemed it inexpedient at present to submit this matter for a second examination by the Presidium or by the Supreme Soviet. We have put the following request to the Presidium: In our opinion, the matter of the IZVESTIYA newspaper should not be submitted for examination. As for the material on founding an IZVESTIYA concern, which was submitted, we feel this whole problem needs further study and that the situation should be resolved by the legally established procedure. The committee has also drawn the attention of the Supreme Soviet leadership to the illegality of examining such serious documents and submitting them to the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet without reference to the committee dealing with the mass media. [end recording]

Roundtable on Freedom of Press

LD1607174492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1545 GMT on 15 July broadcasts a 60-minute roundtable discussion program entitled "Glasnost in Danger." Reception is good.

The program is introduced by Vladimir Pozner with the participation of Vitaliy Tretyakov, editor in chief of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA; Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the Ostankino Television Company; Vladislav Starkov, editor in chief of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY; Igor Golembiovskiy, editor in chief of IZVESTIYA; Leonid Nikitinskiy, parliamentary correspondent of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA; Anatoliy Stepovoy, president of the Guild of Parliamentary Journalists; and Sergey Parkomenko, parliamentary correspondent of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

After introducing the participants Pozner introduces the theme of pressure on the mass media and the latest evidence of this—the parliamentary draft decision on state policy in the sphere of mass information. Yegor Yakovlev says: "I think it would have been more pleasant for our viewers if the circumstances had not arisen which have given rise to this program. These circumstances are the result of the incredible fuss being made by our parliamentarians, headed by their speaker, Ruslan Khasbulatov, who in recent days have set out on some sort of mad race to carry through decisions concerning the country's major television companies and virtually the whole of the press, and, in general, a decision aimed at liquidating the newspaper IZVESTIYA, which is respected by all generations of our contemporaries.

"What is the reason for this fuss? Why is it happening? My experience suggests to me that fuss always stems

from bias. In order to push through something biased it is necessary to make a fuss. And the embodiment of bias is Ruslan Khasbulatov.

"Let me just cite two episodes. This may stretch your attention a little, but I would like you to understand why I say this. The first episode: IZVESTIYA published a serious article, saying that on instructions from Khasbulatov his fellow countrymen, Chechens, were being driven out of Moscow hotels with blows. What did Khasbulatov do? He immediately declared that IZVESTIYA was a publication which took bribes. IZVESTIYA took the matter to court. Instead of presenting the court with the documents that the People's Court requested, Khasbulatov began repressions against IZVESTIYA and this decision appeared which is aimed at closing down IZVESTIYA.

"The second episode: Ostankino. In an interview Khasbulatov was asked what had caused him to say in an interview with the Italian newspaper REPUBBLICA that the members of the Russian Government were not people but a collection of worms. Khasbulatov declared publicly, on microphone, on the screen, that he had not said anything of the sort. The next day, to the amazement of the viewers, we were obliged to play the text of his interview and this made it clear that he had simply been lying. A normal person would say: I don't know what got into me. But what did Khasbulatov do? He began to look for a pretext to punish Ostankino.

"Chance came to his aid. A certain Fomin turned up, a nobody, with the title of lieutenant colonel retired. No one can find out where he works. He proposed that he and his wife be given five and one-half hours of television broadcasting every day and five hours of radio broadcasting. On the basis of this he would set up a Bureau of Kind Words, which would say only kind words about the work of Khasbulatov and the Supreme Soviet. Well, since even cats like to hear kind words, Khasbulatov immediately drew up a resolution on the basis of this proposal and immediately prepared a document."

Golembiovskiy then adds: "I think that we are narrowing the problem down too much. It is much more serious. It is a question of the struggle for power." He goes on to outline the contents of the decision and notes the recent rise in the cost of newsprint.

Golembiovskiy continues: "The decision which it is proposed to adopt declares that state subsidies—which the press today cannot survive without—are set by individual articles of the federal budget. Do you see what this means? Who approves the federal budget? The Supreme Soviet. Poltoranin and the Press Ministry retain the right to present publications for subsidies. Let us take the example of IZVESTIYA. I am sure that Ruslan Imranovich will not allocate a single ruble for IZVESTIYA."

Pozner wonders who drew up the draft decision on IZVESTIYA. This is discussed. Pozner then says: "You know, each of us, like journalists, have our own sources

of information, and I have such a source. He told me quite an interesting story which amounts to this: When the Sixth RSFSR Congress of Peoples deputies took place in March, the question of the mass media was included on the agenda. This was precisely at the time when Khasbulatov had given the REPUBBLICA interview and described the government as worms, and when television had proved that he really had done this. It was at the time when IZVESTIYA took him to court, and one must think that if that question had been discussed at that time then the speaker would have been strongly attacked by the mass media.

"My source says that this question was quietly dropped and not discussed at the Congress, and that one person was instructed to prepare a draft decision, which, on the final day of the Congress was distributed to the deputies when they had all had enough and wanted to go home. On that final day of the Congress the deputies were told: You have been shown this draft, let us instruct the Supreme Soviet to examine this draft. They all, or nearly all, happily voted in favor without giving it much attention.

"According to my information, I repeat, according to my information, Vladimir Isakov was instructed to write this. That is what I have heard. I cannot confirm it, but that is what I have been told."

Stepovoy says: "I consider that the present neo-Bolshevik Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR differs little from the Bolshevik Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is repeating its mistakes and its attempts to tie up the press."

Tretyakov says that Khasbulatov had ready access to television. "In my view this is just an imitation of the struggle for power. For the fundamental struggle for power in our republic and not just in the republic, is being waged in part under the table, in part behind the scenes, and in part on the surface. But the mass media just get in the way here. They bring it into the open," Tretyakov adds.

He adds: "Newspapers and television get in the way because they often tell the truth, and the saddest thing for me—in general the situation is laughable but it does have a sad side—is that many representatives of the new power alas fear the truth much more than the previous leaders, who had deeply blinkered communist views but they were principled, even if in a blinkered way."

Pozner says: "With regard to our previous leaders, they did not fear the truth at all because they simply did not permit it, so they did not need to fear it."

Starkov recalls the dispute between Gorbachev and ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. These are all remnants of the totalitarian way of thinking, he stresses.

Stepovoy says: "I would like to reply to the question that was asked: Who is behind all of this? I am sure, I simply know from the way that events have developed who is behind all of this. Naturally it is Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov who is behind all of this."

Parkhomenko says that official sources of information are available only by permission which can be withdrawn; this is a form of pressure on journalists, he says. Stepovoy then goes on to tell of a conversation with Khasbulatov who tried to pressurize the press. Yakovlev asks what can be done if bodies are set up to control the press. Tretyakov says that Khasbulatov manipulates parliament in a jesuitical way.

Pozner then asks how the media can be protected from political interference. He suggests privatisation.

Golembiovskiy, off-camera, says: "The BBC is subsidized by the state but it is still one of the most independent broadcasting corporations."

Pozner responds: "But ITV exists, too, which is private, so there is an alternative television service, and I think that this may be the only way to guarantee independence."

Tretyakov says that the law on the media will be a long time coming and protective measures are needed in the meantime. Others say that freedom of speech is not enough; people must have the means to implement it, he adds.

The participants raise the question of the television programme "Moment of Truth," which was made but not shown. Yakovlev gives justifications for this. They discuss reasons which could justify non-publication of various material. Golembiovskiy then says that the press is on the verge of disaster because of the increase in costs.

Pozner goes on to cite a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI article which attacks Yeltsin and asks whether this could turn the president against the press. They say that Yeltsin supports freedom of speech. In conclusion Pozner asks the participants whether they are optimistic about the future of press freedom. At this point the program ends.

INTERFAX Reports

OW1607192292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It is possible that in the near future journalists will have to buy some kinds of information and services from the Russian government press center. This will be a reality if approval is given to draft regulations on the government press center, which is a supplement to the draft government directive on the center, both drafts having been made in the center itself. If the regulations are approved, the center will include a "commercial self-subsistent department providing services to journalists."

The directive instructs the press center to "provide coordinated coverage of the work of implementing reforms done by Russian government agencies." The

press center should do so on the basis of the recommendations of the Council for Information about Reforms headed by Mikhail Poltoranin, Vice-Premier and Minister of the Press and Information.

The staff of the press center is to be about the same size as that of the former government press bureau—although it can consist of no more than 25 persons. So far, however, it basically consists of only one person—its chief, Gennadiy Shipitko. The center is to be located on the premises of the press bureau. The chief's salary is to be equivalent to that of the first deputy prime minister. It will be one of the center's responsibilities to get its own information about reforms published in the media.

Speaking to our correspondent, a government source who did not wish to be named described both drafts as "perplexing, to say the least." In his opinion, these attempts to coordinate the "coverage of the work of government agencies" from a single center - the Council for Information about Reforms - might amount to the doctoring of the information given to the press, and might virtually mean restricting the freedom of speech. Although, at the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, Yegor Gaydar promised to provide the population with extensive information about the work and plans of the cabinet, "now journalists don't even have any of those rare meetings with ministers they used to have, and practically nobody is allowed to cover any official events apart from the television and ITAR-TASS." Charging money for the information which is so scarce is "not only ridiculous but dishonest."

Gaydar Addresses Deputies on Budget

LD1707002292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1938 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Address by Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 16 July—recorded; from the "At the Supreme Soviet" program]

[Text] Esteemed People's Deputies: I should like to say a few words about the character of the discussion that has arisen over the 1992 budget in connection with its revenue base.

You will recall that after our last discussion a joint working group was set up. It has been at work, and the positions of the representatives of the Supreme Soviet and the government have been clarified. The government representatives admitted, for instance, that there is indeed the possibility of increasing the approximate 60 billion of budget revenue [currency not specified] by the taxation of individuals. Unfortunately, all this revenue is received by local budgets, and the local budgets are not in a hurry to accept this. But as a whole, in line with the dynamics of real receipts for the first half year, one can agree here with the fact that the figures proposed by the Supreme Soviet are fairly realistic.

The representatives of the Supreme Soviet agreed that the methods for converting comparative prices into

current ones, and for GNP calculations, are incorrect and inapplicable in the situation that has come about. They have accepted the amount of gross national product proposed by the government—15 billion [amount as heard]—as the starting point. After this, the arithmetic ends and the really serious and substantive economic issues, about which Leonid Sergeyevich [Sokolov] has here been speaking, begins.

The next issue concerns the dynamics of profit and how much profit will actually be obtained in the national economy and, in this connection, how all this will affect value added tax, profits tax, and indeed the dynamics of individual pay. In the calculations that the government put forward, we proceeded on the basis that profitability in the national economy in 1992 will be maintained at approximately the 1991 level and at somewhere around 25 percent of costs. We did this because there are no grounds for supposing that in 1992 there was some kind of sharp upsurge in efficiency making it possible to sharply increase the real profit gained by an enterprise. Our esteemed opponents have drawn attention to the real dynamics of profit in the first quarter, when profitability reached 70 percent, sharply increased in comparison with 1992, and proposed making these assessments the basis of calculations for 1992. So, in essence, the whole discussion around allegedly existent supplementary sources of budgetary income revolves around this profit—whether it will indeed be received in 1992 and whether it can be used as a tax revenue source. In order to understand where this profit and this sharp, sudden jump in profit and profitability of production and industry in the first quarter came from, against a background of universal groans and cries that everything is grinding to a halt, that industry has no funds, and so forth, one should go into it in slightly more detail. The point at issue is that in the first quarter the reaction of industry to the unfreezing of prices was a sharp rise in the level of prices, not correlating to the volume of money in circulation and the effective demand for its output. The bargain prices climbed sharply. To a significant degree, costs were dependent on raw materials bought in the preceding periods, and hence the enormous profit of the first quarter occurred. But these demands of enterprises are confronted with a certain financial reality. And the financial reality is associated with the fact that consumers cannot accept these prices. Therefore, the chain of insolvency ensues.

There are not two different problems. On the one hand, there was the jump in profits during the first quarter as a source of income, and on the other, the problem of non-payment has arisen and no one knows where it comes from. This is one and the same problem. The chain of non-payment is the natural reaction of an economy that is not ready to accommodate a sharp jump in the profits of enterprises in the context of a general deep crisis in industrial production.

Therefore, to hope that we can somehow miraculously take hold of this chain of non-payment and make it

dissolve while preserving the existing level of profitability is completely illusory. The only method of eliminating this chain of non-payment that would not damage the national economy, that would not immediately set in motion the mechanism of hyperinflation, and would not immediately return the very money to enterprises we take from them in other forms of taxes, is the sort of method that would gradually bring the price demands of enterprises into line with reality, and would correspondingly lower the level of profitability to roughly last year's level, which is the level we set down in our calculations. In this connection, in this particular case—and here we need to clearly see this—no miraculous ways exist to sort out the system of non-payment and in doing so, to generate a billion, or rather, forgive me, an extra trillion rubles from the budget income.

There is the reality, and unfortunately we have to rely on this. The real situation is defined by the changes in prices taking place at the moment. They are now becoming clear, after all, the predictions were drawn up in April on the basis of how the situation appeared at that moment. Today, we already have the figures for June, and for the beginning of July. We see how the real movement in prices is taking shape, and what the real budget returns look like.

So let us look at the latest statistics. In the last week prices have gone up by 1.2 percent. So, let us look at the figures for a selective investigation. On the whole, since 17 June, the increase in prices on the basic range of goods has slowed down sharply.

I do not want to be over-optimistic but, in principle, if one extrapolates the trends that have taken shape at the end of June, beginning of July, it is possible that we will have inflation rates even lower than those incorporated in the budget speech. Of course, that is if we ourselves do not destroy this, at least temporary, stabilization with our own hands. If all this is put together, inflation rates would appear to be 6 or 7 percent a month at present. I am not absolutely sure, however, that this is a steady trend.

Let us have a look at tax returns. The ones for June have just been received. Well, compared to May, the growth is by the same 5 percent. Here the revolution on the scale of revenue that was outlined and indeed took place from January to March, when we switched to a new level of prices, has not been happening since April. We have pretty steady revenue at present and it does not go up sharply. In this connection, I would still like to ask you earnestly to be realistic and not to assume that from somewhere there will miraculously appear additional sources of revenue amounting to an additional 3 trillion rubles [R], which we will have to divide with pleasure. There are no such sources. The real volume of the budget revenue, presented in the Finance Ministry's option, is optimistic, and I would even say super-optimistic. If we can achieve it—thank God.

Nevertheless, we have objective real problems, which we encounter and which we have to resolve even in the

framework of real budget returns. You will understand perfectly that we frame the budget in terms of real revenue and an approved amount of deficit. Therefore, let us say, if we today incorporate an additional R800 billion proceeding from assumed revenue and it is not received, this will only mean that we will inspire groundless illusions in people and social spheres to whom we will promise money and will not be able to give it. What seems possible to us to clarify in the budget on the basis of joint work with the planning and budget commission? To clarify, not because we consider that there are supplementary sources of revenue, but simply because there are very acute, burning problems that must not be deferred and because of which it will be necessary, however painful and dangerous for the economy it may be, to agree to a certain increase of the budget.

We deem it really necessary to have to approximately double subsidies on foodstuffs and animal husbandry products and allocate R62 billion more for this. Because the crisis in animal husbandry is very serious, and we may ruin this industry, there is no doubt that we will have to seek out resources here. We consider that the question of the need to increase allocations for the most important national cultural facilities, which we have been forced to starve of funds, is raised quite justly. We consider that to additionally allot R4 billion to this end, plus those provided for in the budget, would be basically a responsible solution, a solution that would be based on an understanding of the role of these cultural monuments, and at the same time would not emasculate our budget. It is not the sort of sum that per se would set off hyperinflation. We consider that it would be possible to agree to an increase in expenditure on housing construction for military servicemen to the tune of R10 billion because this really is a most acute problem. We can lose more by an insufficient rate of troop withdrawals, let us say, from territories outside Russia.

As far as a range of other areas that the committees and commissions propose, we could come to an agreement, to my mind, in the following way. The budget is a living thing. It is constantly changing and constantly determines what real income we end up with. We perfectly realize deputies' concern that the government, let us say, if it receives additional revenues, would start using them at its discretion. We could analyze the situation and adopt our decisions within the framework of which, according to the results of revenues received for nine months, we would return to the discussion of this matter and you would spend these financial resources on those areas that the Supreme Soviet would specify, if, indeed, they do exist. This is encapsulated in the edition of the Supreme Soviet decision put forward to you. The government supports this approach to a greater extent.

Joint Enterprise Tax Exemptions To Continue

PM1607152792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 3

[AEN report under the "Economy" rubric: "Concessions for Joint Ventures"]

[Text] Enterprises with foreign investments in them registered on the territory of Russia prior to 1 January 1992 and engaged in the sphere of material production will continue to be exempt from paying tax on profits during the first two years (three years in the Far East) from the moment they obtain a profit on their balance sheet. The relevant provision was passed by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Parliament Proposes Yeltsin Repeal Diamonds Decree

OW1407100792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0516 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Parliament Monday [13 July] decided to send the Russian president a confidential note on the situation in Russia's diamond industry.

The presidium will suggest that the president cancel his decree of February 1992 on the formation of the "Russian Diamonds" stock company within the Russian "Almazoloto" corporation. Parliamentary experts say the decree contains serious legal errors.

The presidium also plans to recommend that the president and the government hold off on legislative acts to reorganize the republic's diamond complex until mid September.

It is expected that by this time the expert committee working in cooperation with representatives from the Central Bank of Russia, the government and the parliament will be ready with a draft on the reorganization of the diamond industry.

Law Lifts Ban on Wages in Hard Currency

OW1407133392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1052 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Parliament has passed in the second reading today, Tuesday [14 July], a law on foreign exchange regulation and control and ruled on its immediate enforcement. Essential amendments were made, such as a repeal of the ban on paying wages or any other remunerations in foreign currency on the territory of Russia.

The Chairman of the Economic Sub-Commission Igor Ivanov stressed that "removed discrimination against Russia's citizens".

However, some deputies argue that the law contradicts the president's November decree on liberalizing foreign economic activities. The decree meant to put a stop to circulation of foreign currency in the Russian Federation beginning with July 1, 1992.

But as I. Ivanov has said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX "stopping the circulation of foreign currency now would shift all the current legal foreign exchange earnings on to the black market". That would badly undermine the rouble's purchasing power, he added.

He informed us that a new presidential decree is being prepared obliging the foreign exchange shops to sell half their goods for roubles at a rate set by them. Their currency earnings would be credited to accounts opened at commercial banks, explained I. Ivanov.

On the other hand, he expressed an opinion that the circulation of foreign currency in Russia should be gradually limited as the economic reform proceeds. Ways to apply such limits are being set now by the government and the Central Bank. That is their prerogative, stressed Ivanov.

He also said that the rouble's internal convertibility can be achieved by January 1, 1993, when all enterprises will be obliged to sell 100% of their currency earnings at the market rate and when internal trade for foreign currencies will be banned. "I think there are signs that internal convertibility should be introduced by that time", forecast I. Ivanov.

Decree on Mineral Rights Approved

OW1507193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1833 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has today [15 July] approved a decree on the licensing of the use of mineral resources prepared by the Committee on Geology jointly with experts from other Russian ministries.

The decree is based on and is a supplementary instrument to the Russian Law on Mineral Resources passed by the parliament at the end of February.

Experts believe that one of the strongest points about the decree is that it offers Russian and foreign companies all the financial and economic guarantees they need for prospecting and working mineral deposits in Russia.

New Version of Subventions Law Passed

OW1507111192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0929 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's parliament has passed a new version of the law on subventions (financial aid) for the Russian Federation's republics, regions, autonomies, and also Moscow and St. Petersburg. President Yeltsin resorted to his right of delaying veto with respect to that law passed June 5 and then submitted its new version to the Supreme Soviet.

Completely changed is the clause on granting subventions from funds outside the budget. A right to such allocations is given to regional councils needing such financing. The share of subventions from such non-budget funds is not to exceed 80% of investments made by the recipient, while the total of subventions is unlimited.

With regard to Moscow's special status and its dire economic straits, the law allows it subventions out of the federal budget to be authorized, at the suggestion of the Moscow council, by the Supreme Soviet.

Regional Affairs

Air Defense, Missile Forces Short of Personnel

OW1607144192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1307 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of the Trans-Baykal Military District, Colonel-General Valeriy Tretyakov, thinks the air defense and missile forces will be the first to be put on a professional basis, for there the shortage of well-trained personnel is the worst.

He said the forces in his district lacked 1,500 platoon commanders, and have a little over a half of the rank-and-file personnel they needed.

Moscow Commission Finds Task 'Impossible'

PM1607153992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 2

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA parliamentary observer Aleksandr Linkov report under the "In Committees and Commissions" rubric: "Argument Drags on into the Fall"]

[Text] A debate about the status of Moscow unfolded last week in the Russian parliament. The fact is that a protracted argument between the capital's representative and executive authorities should have been resolved by a deputies' commission established by a Supreme Soviet decision. This commission studied a number of documents from various ministries and departments. It should be noted that the commission members were denied any access to the official documents of Moscow's executive organs. Nevertheless, an information and analysis report was prepared and submitted to the Supreme Soviet Presidium. But the Presidium session only heard information from Commission Chairman G. Zhukov and speeches by Moscow City Soviet Chairman N. Gonchar and administration head Yu. Luzhkov. Incidentally, the latter leveled accusations at the Presidium, saying that the commission had been picked in a biased way and had not offered specific help in improving the socioeconomic situation in the capital.

A discussion of the issue as such did not take place.

For days afterward, the Supreme Soviet would not support a proposal to examine a draft law on the status of Moscow. These actions provoked a negative response from the commission members, who thought that this attitude to their work, and also to the work of other commissions, is not conducive to effective parliamentary activity. They expressed their opinion in a statement to the Supreme Soviet Presidium. The statement says that they have drawn an unequivocal conclusion from the results of their work: Despite the granting of wide-ranging additional powers for implementing economic reforms to the Moscow authorities, these have not had the expected effect. At the same time, extremely gross violations of Russian legislation and presidential decrees have become apparent. All this undermines the basis of the rule-of-law state that is being established and creates conditions for abuses and corruption, discrediting the Russian authorities and the reforms they are implementing in the eyes of public opinion.

The failure to adopt extremely urgent measures to stop lawlessness when a sufficient legislative base exists negates all the reform work and heightens parliament's responsibility to the population.

The statement notes that the Presidium's decision to prolong the commission's work into the fall will only delay a decision on problems that are obviously very acute and aggravate the situation in Moscow. In drawing this conclusion, the commission members believe that it is impossible to continue their work, and they intend to hand over the material they have at their disposal to the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office.

Farmers To Withhold Produce Against Promised Aid

*PM1607155192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 3*

[Vadim Ogurtsov report: "We Will Beat Plowshares into Swords..."]

[Text] The Russian government's failure to fulfill its commitments under the "General Contract" and the red

tape hampering agrarian reform have resulted in the peasants in some rayons of Rostov Oblast declaring their intention to stop state deliveries. People are taking the initiative in setting up strike committees.

Representatives of agricultural enterprises and farms in seven rayons of the oblast held a meeting at which they demanded that the government honor its commitments to supply fuel and lubricants, spare parts, and monetary resources, to clear hard currency debts, to redeem "Urozhay-90" checks in full, and to increase purchase prices for grain, meat, milk, and wool. Otherwise, the state will cease to be supplied with agricultural produce. The demands have been supported by representatives of several other rayons in the oblast. The situation is being aggravated by the growing shortage of cash, the arrears in paying wages, and the lack of guaranteed floor [startovyy] prices for grain and oil-bearing crops.

Kuban Grain Harvest Damaged by Heavy Rain, Hail

*PM1607113992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT
10 Jul 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report by A. Poklad from Krasnodar—live]

[Text] Let me begin with a good old cliché. A battle to save the harvest is under way. Even older people cannot recall anything like the recent heavy rains compounded by hail happening during the last 30 years. You can see the results for yourselves. And this is the picture on 80 percent of the fields. Output volumes, and that includes output of agricultural produce, are declining in the Kuban just like everywhere else.

However, the fact that more than 10,000 private farmers already operate in the Kuban inspires optimism. The local rayon authorities are certainly not letting them have the best land. Nor have the authorities been paying out the share that is due to them on withdrawal from collective farms. Nonetheless, they are operating, and they have the kray administration's support. The results are evident. This is the collective farm's corn field, and this is a farmer's field.

International Affairs

Council of Europe Delegation Meets Kravchuk

LD1707075292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Today in Kiev, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine met the delegation of the Council of Europe, headed by Hikmet Cetin, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Council of Europe and foreign minister of Turkey.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that the members of the delegation must collect all information about the political situation in the republic and economic and legal reforms. It is necessary in order to solve the question of admitting Ukraine to the Council of Europe.

National Affairs

Kravchuk, Yeltsin Hold Telephone Discussion

LD1607210292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin have held a telephone discussion and expressed steadfast adherence to the moratorium and support for accelerating the work of the delegations of Ukraine and Russia in solving the problems of the Black Sea Fleet. The Tele-agency NOVYNY reports that this information was given today at a session of the Sevastopol local council by its head, Volodymyr Semenov.

Kravchuk Motives in Lanovoyy Dismissal Viewed

MK1607112192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Vitaliy Portnikov article: "The 'Ukrainian Gaydar' Goes; President Kravchuk Parts With Vice Premier Lanovoyy"]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, has released Vladimir Lanovoyy from his duties as vice premier and minister of the economy of Ukraine. Lanovoyy (like Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov as well) refused to resign when Vitold Fokin's cabinet resigned during the recent government demarche in parliament. Of late, people were speaking increasingly frequently of him as a possible successor to Fokin, but even more frequently, the Russian variation of this theme had been suggested to President Kravchuk: that he, Kravchuk, should head the government, while granting broad powers to Lanovoyy for conducting a radical economic reform. This option was discussed particularly seriously by the leaders of the "New Ukraine" association which has recently emerged, and to which belong a number of liberal-minded politicians, business executives, and public figures. However,

instead of defending Lanovoyy against the opponents of reform, the Ukrainian president prefers to defend the premier against Lanovoyy.

If Fokin's cabinet had contained a center—even if only a theoretical one—of reform, it would, without a shadow of doubt, have been concentrated around the departing minister of the economy. Lanovoyy had succeeded in winning the confidence of the West: Many experts recognized him as a competent specialist and linked Ukraine's obtaining of credits and aid with the efficiently functioning Kravchuk-Lanovoyy tandem like the Russian Yeltsin-Gaydar tandem. Yeltsin proved to the West he was capable of defending Gaydar. However, Kravchuk assisted Lanovoyy's departure. In a conversation with me a few weeks ago, the former vice premier recounted how much effort the president had had to make to get him into the government. He expressed confidence that he would be able to work with Kravchuk and declared that the president would have to head the government all the same. Vladimir Lanovoyy was mistaken. Or was Kravchuk mistaken?

Observers know that the president's warm relations with the prime minister are a myth. Kravchuk would not have begun to defend Fokin out of kindness toward him. Is it possible that the president believes that the time for the premier to depart has not yet come? How then does one explain the appointment of Valentin Simonenko, the former representative of the president in Odessa Oblast, to the post of first vice premier (Lanovoyy was not a first vice premier)? Does the president really consider the switch to be appropriate, dauntlessly drawing a parallel between the professional economist and a person drawn from the nomenklatura stockpile?

It seems that after all, we are dealing here with the inertia of "sovereign communist" thinking: Ultimately not only Kravchuk but also Fokin, and Simonenko have emerged from precisely this political current which has been reoriented toward defending the state independence of the republic. Lanovoyy was an outsider among them, possibly also for the fact that he realized better than the others how the attainment of real independence has to do with economic realities rather than with the attributes and rhetoric which Ukraine's leaders had facily imitated from Rukh which had remained in opposition (and which had, moreover, also never come forward with an effective economic program). The choice has been made and one need not be tortured by doubt as to whether it is worth heading the government. Now it is not worth it. However, Leonid Kravchuk will hardly succeed in retaining Vitold Fokin either. Sooner or later Kravchuk will have to devote himself to reforms or... hand over power. For all the present stability of his position, the economic crisis will hardly enhance the president's popularity and Lanovoyy's dismissal will hardly increase the West's trust in Ukrainian reform (or rather the lack of it). Of course, an economically weak Ukraine will be forced to become dragged more and more into the Russian orbit and surrender its positions one after another, but inside Ukraine this will merely increase the political weight of the overtly disintegrationist forces.

Moreover, it is not ruled out that in the event of the success of the Russian reforms and the crisis of the Ukrainian economy, Ukraine's leadership will itself have a vested interest in the exacerbation of Russian-Ukrainian relations: Ultimately no one has yet thought up a better way of diverting the population from domestic political problems.

Until recently, Leonid Kravchuk was succeeding with a greater or lesser degree of virtuosity in balancing between the various currents in the politics and the economy of his country. One of the tokens of this balance was the cabinet which contained both Vitold Fokin who sincerely wished to "do his best" but who still thought in outmoded terms, and also Vladimir Lano-voy with his image as a Gaydar-style "marketeer." The balance was violated and this is not the first occasion when the president has renounced a situation of balance. So what is this? Total confidence in his own strength? Or an increase in weakness?

Crimean Republican Leader Interviewed

MK1607150392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Yuriy Meshkov, leader of Republic Movement of Crimea, by Vladimir Skachko; place and date not given: "Ukraine Must Not Hinder Development of Our Statehood, Yuriy Meshkov, Leader of Republic Movement of Crimea, Told NG Correspondent in Interview"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] As is known, the 9 July session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Crimea declared a moratorium on the holding of an all-Crimea referendum 2 August. In the opinion of many Crimean deputies, by that decision the parliament, first, took one more step toward the normalization of relations with Ukraine; second, gave the Crimean leadership an opportunity to take advantage of the powers received from Kiev to resolve the peninsula's problems; and, third, knocked the main political weapon from the hands of the RMC [Republic Movement of Crimea], which initiated the referendum and collected the signatures of more than 250,000 Crimeans in favor of holding it.

The RMC came into being last August and is today one of the strongest political movements in Crimea. The movement's chief aim is to achieve Crimea's full independence from both Ukraine and Russia. For this it has set up the "People's Opposition" bloc, which embraces the small movements named "20 January," "Christian Democratic Union," "Democratic Taurida," and others. The RMC is represented in the Crimean parliament by the "Respublika" parliamentary faction with 17 permanent members. The RMC deputies did not participate in the vote on the question of a moratorium on the referendum, as they considered the very formulation of the question unconstitutional. In addition, RMC spokesmen regard the moratorium not as a ban on the referendum but merely as its temporary suspension, and so they intend to continue the struggle to get it held.

[Skachko] Taking the results of the 9 July vote into account, what prospect do you see for Ukrainian-Crimean relations?

[Meshkov] Unlike many of my colleagues, who at first came out under Russian flags and then nimbly replaced them with yellow-and-blue ones, my supporters and I have not changed our views. We favor the Crimean Constitution, which does not record that Crimea is an autonomous constituent part of Ukraine. The constitution records that we build relations with Ukraine on the basis of the treaty and agreements. This is the normal wording for future relations.

[Skachko] Is this why you criticize the law adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on the delimitation of powers between the Ukrainian and Crimean organs of state power?

[Meshkov] Ukraine has the right to adopt any law that operates on its territory. However, the territory of the Republic of Crimea has never been and, I hope, never will be Ukrainian territory. Our laws and our constitution operate on our territory, and no one has the right to violate them.

[Skachko] Many Crimean people's deputies have changed their position, basing this on economic expediency and the impossibility of secession from Ukraine. What is your attitude to this?

[Meshkov] There could be any number of reasons, only not an economic one, since the results of the criminal inactivity of our Supreme Soviet, which does not champion its own people's interests, have caused the overall tendencies of economic collapse in Ukraine also to affect the Crimean economy. Although, against the background of a general fall in the level of production, the situation in Crimea, as distinct from Ukraine, is not that critical. We are now being dragged along by the disintegrating economy of Ukraine, which is even more subject to destabilizing processes than any other CIS republic. This has happened because the priority of national interests over all others, including economic interests, has been acknowledged at the highest state level in Ukraine. However, we in Crimea have no interest in upholding the superiority of the Ukrainian nation, strengthening the unitary, nationalist Ukrainian state, or paying for this with our own well-being.

[Skachko] Crimea's economic dependence on Ukraine is acknowledged at all levels today. Having broken off ties, how do you intend to build your own economy?

[Meshkov] I understand your question, but I want to say that the same question faced the leadership of Ukraine when it was seceding from the Union. The Ukrainian leadership realized that such a step would entail destructive economic processes, which the ordinary working person would have to pay for. These processes are continuing now, and we do not wish to participate in

them. We advocate preserving the single economic area and very close economic ties with all the republics of the former USSR.

[Skachko] Still, the pro-Ukrainian tendency in Crimea is winning today. Why do you think this is?

[Meshkov] I will answer like this: The more vigorously Ukraine acts to stifle the statehood of the Republic of Crimea, the more vigorous will be the Crimeans' desire to go to Russia, to reunite with it, and to defend themselves against pressure with Russia's help. The same thing will also happen in the event of pressure on the RMC.

[Skachko] The Crimean parliament has adopted the decision on a moratorium on the referendum. What does the RMC intend to do now?

[Meshkov] That decision is unlawful and unconstitutional, and so it is the constitutional duty of every citizen, particularly a deputy, to uphold the constitution by all the measures that are provided for.

[Skachko] Any measures?

[Meshkov] There is such a concept in jurisprudence as defense against unlawful encroachments. In this case we have such encroachments, and so we also have the right to suppress them by any means—primarily legal ones, of course.

[Skachko] President Boris Yeltsin repeats everywhere: Crimea is an internal matter for Ukraine. If it should happen that Crimea becomes independent from Ukraine, but Russia does not support it or recognize it, fearing accusations of violating Ukraine's territorial integrity and the principle of the inviolability of borders, and the world community does not recognize independent Crimea either, what will you do then?

[Meshkov] Isolation does not threaten Crimea, for the borders are not being changed. The Ukrainian leadership is trying to change them by means of a territorial takeover of territory which has never belonged to it. Just as the people of Crimea were a part of the Russian people, so they will remain. We will not find ourselves isolated, for we uphold the priority of panhuman rights, which are reverently respected by the world community. The latter will, I hope, be on our side when panhuman and nationalist trends clash on the peninsula. With regard to Russia's recognition of Crimea, I can say that the level of the Russian officials (I will not name them) who have declared that our independence will be recognized has been quite high. I am convinced that these people will ensure the realization of that promise.

[Skachko] What is your attitude to the Crimean Tatar question?

[Meshkov] The Crimean Tatars are heterogeneous in their views. They include people whom Ukraine is leading by the nose with promises which it will never be possible to carry out. For the unitary nationalist state of Ukraine

cannot reconcile itself to any other national statehood on its territory. However, there is also the National Movement of Crimean Tatars, with which we maintain contact. This movement's representatives understand that Crimean Tatars are simply citizens of the Republic of Crimea, that we have to live together, and that no one will solve our problems for us. They have never supported, and do not support now, the idea of any national superiority, including Ukrainian, on Crimean territory.

[Skachko] Will the RMC not agree to Crimea's remaining within Ukraine if the Ukrainian leadership changes the unitary structural principle for the federal principle?

[Meshkov] We do not haggle over anything or ask Ukraine for anything that does not belong to us by right. We put a single request to Kiev: Do not prevent us from enjoying what is ours, do not prevent us from realizing human and civil rights on our republic's territory, and do not hinder the development of our statehood. Ukraine's federal structure, if it comes to it, will only make it easier for us to realize our constitution.

[Skachko] The RMC is frequently called a Russian national patriotic organization. What is your attitude to this?

[Meshkov] What has national patriotism to do with this? What grounds are there for such charges? We do not divide up our supporters along ethnic lines. It is an overt and brazen lie to accuse us of national patriotism, and those who write and speak of this know this better than anyone.

Rukh Secretariat Head Resigns, More Expected

LD1607222892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] It has become known to the NOVYNY tele-agency correspondent that today Viktor Burlakov, head of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroika [Rukh] Secretariat, has submitted a declaration on his resignation. Let us recall that according to the statute, the leader of the Secretariat is the highest person in the executive structures of Rukh.

In the opinion of observers it is expected that Ivan Drach will do the same within the next few days. A little earlier Mykhaylo Horyn resigned from the post of co-chairman of Rukh.

Official Predicts 'Power Crisis' in the Fall

LD1607220692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian
1332 GMT 14 Jul 92

[“Review of Kiev newspapers 14 July”—UKRINFORM headline]

[Excerpts] Kiev, (UKRINFORM)—“The power crisis in reality”—this is the title under which PRAVDA UKRAINY publishes an interview with Volodymyr

Hrynyov, deputy head of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Assessing the situation which has developed in the top echelons of power, Volodymyr Hrynyov stresses that the current government is unable to carry out radical economic reforms, parliament is unable to fully create an economic basis for those reforms, and the president is unable to control the situation. The removal of Vice Premier Lonovyy from the leadership position over the economic reforms, in his opinion, took place when the president announced the introduction of a group which is not to be headed by Lanovyy.

As for another attempt to remove the government, according to Volodymyr Hrynyov, the attack on the government was an unprepared, spontaneous action, brought on the way of populism. However, in his

opinion, a power crisis will take place in the fall all the same, and all the political forces of Ukraine should prepare for that.

As for 'Nova Ukraina,' according to Volodymyr Hrynov, it will not turn down the smallest chance to progress the economic reforms. [passage omitted]

"Mstislav remained firm"—'UKRAINA MOLODA' concludes, reporting on Patriarch Mstislav's stay in Ukraine. However, according to the newspaper, Mstislav was "indelicately and stubbornly pressurized by deputies of the Supreme Soviet," trying to force him to confirm in documental form the act of unification of Filaret with part of hierarchs from the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, with Antonyi at their head. The patriarch did not confirm the legality of that act and postponed the decision on that issue until the near future.

Byelarus

Prime Minister Defends Centralized Planning

OW1607185392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Asked whether Byelarus should reject planning out of hand, Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said that despite the moves to reduce the number of planning indices, the planning system as a whole could not be rejected.

Responding to questions on a recent hot line with readers of the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, the Byelarusian leader said the realization of the government blueprint for economic recovery would curb, within the next few months, the negative tendencies in the Byelarusian economy and improve the situation before the year ran out.

Kebich repeated his republic would have no intention of destroying the Rouble zone unless it were forced to introduce a currency unit of its own. The Prime Minister described monetary reform as a very complicated undertaking which demanded the introduction of totally new mechanisms of currency, customs and border control.

Political Treaty With Lithuania Expected

OW1607185192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Byelarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich and his Lithuanian counterpart Vytautas Landsbergis held a two-day meeting in the Byelarusian township of Ghervyaty. Tuesday [14 July] and Wednesday the two leaders met with local residents a good many of whom are ethnic Lithuanians.

The Byelarusian and Lithuanian leaders discussed the conceptual problems of bilateral relations in the runup for the conclusion of a bilateral political treaty. Shushkevich felt the treaty could possibly be signed this year. He told the local residents Byelarus and Lithuania must tackle the problems of ethnic Lithuanians in Byelarus and ethnic Byelarusians in Lithuania without foreign assistance and on the basis of a special agreement. He described the meeting in Ghervyaty as a stage in the preparation of the agreement. The finalization of the joint border was another issue on the meeting's agenda.

Landsbergis felt that by meeting halfway each other's interests the two republics could finalize the border as early as next September.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Chairman of the Land Surveying Committee under the Byelarusian Council of Ministers Georgiy Tarazevich has told a reporter for INTERFAX, critical differences emerged as soon as the two countries focused on the border problem. In the years of Soviet rule, Tarazevich said, many Lithuanian farms on the border with Byelarus had expanded to Byelarusian territory. Tarazevich was most emphatic in denying political motivation behind the expansion. He explained the Lithuanian expansion by exclusively economic considerations. In finalizing the joint border, Lithuania used to insist the actual boundaries of land tenure be taken into account while Byelarus preferred the status quo of 1940. Finally, Shushkevich said, a telephone conversation with Landsbergis had straightened things out.

Landsbergis said special travel regulations would be introduced for the residents of the border areas so as to rule out the need for travel visas. Shushkevich, for his part, stressed the protectionist policies were so far working against his republic. He expected the national Parliament to reconsider the existing legislation to facilitate people-to-people contacts and straighten out the bothersome misunderstandings.

IF Note: The population of the Ghervyaty district is officially estimated at 3,000. 1,300 of the 3,000 are ethnic Lithuanians.

In the meantime, sources close to the head of the Byelarusian government say Byelarus is about to close its border with Lithuania. Border posts will emerge, and quotas will be imposed on travel between the two independent and sovereign republics. In prices of last January, it will cost Byelarus about one billion Roubles to erect the border installations and man these.

Moldova

Snegur Confident Dniester Conflict 'Will End'

LD1607143192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1337 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau July 16 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said on Thursday [16 July] he is sure the war in the Dniester area will end and people on both banks of the Dniester River will live in peace and mutual understanding. In a TV address, Snegur said Moldova finds understanding in settling the Dniester conflict with democratic circles in Russia, among them President Boris Yeltsin. At the same time, the Moldovan president stressed that there exist in Russia "national-chauvinist

circles wishing the revival of the empire". He believes that "democratic forces of independent republics should rally against these forces".

Snegur said that a number of key posts were offered to leaders of the Dniester area in the new Moldovan Cabinet of Ministers which is a Government of National Accord. But the leaders of the Dniester refused since they wish to keep leading posts in the Dniester Moldovan Republic they have created.

Sends Draft to Yeltsin

*OW1607185992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday President Mircea Snegur chaired a meeting of the Supreme Security Council of Moldova which approved a draft for an agreement between Moldova and Russia on basic principles for the settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester region. The document is based on principles formulated by the leaders of Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania at their meeting in Istanbul.

The draft includes a clause on the forming of a joint coordinating group consisting of officers from the defense ministries of Moldova and Russia, and commanders from the armed detachments of the Russian-speaking Dniester region. In addition to this, mixed forces of limited numerical strength are to be formed from Moldovan and Russian servicemen to maintain peace, law and order. The coordinating group and peace-keeping forces will ensure that the ceasefire is not violated, and that the artillery and other heavy weapons are removed beyond the lines stipulated by a relevant agreement, and will also guarantee security in the area.

There is a clause on the demilitarization of the conflict zone, in accordance with which Russia would have to take necessary measures to ensure the neutrality of its 14th army, immediately start negotiations with Moldova on the status of this army, and decide on a deadline for its withdrawal from Moldova.

The document requires that the Moldovan and Russian governments ask the UN and the leaders of CSCE countries to send a certain number of "blue helmets" to Moldova to maintain international control over the situation and carry out centralized command of the peace-keeping forces.

Simultaneously Moldova and Russia would have to start negotiations on the restoration of the economy in the conflict zone and on measures to provide for the return of the refugees to their homes. The agreement would ban economic sanctions or blockades and provide for the unbiased coverage of the settlement process in the media.

The draft has been sent to the Russian President with a letter from Snegur in which the Moldovan President states Moldova's willingness to discuss as soon as possible the time and venue for the signing of the agreement.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

This draft agreement creates premises for forming a mechanism of guaranteed cease-fire in all zones and places of conflict, the presidential state adviser Nikolae Kirtoake told in his exclusive interview with "IF" [INTERFAX].

Qualifying the draft agreement, in particular, he said:

After declaration of the Russian and Moldovan Presidents stating that they are guarantors of cease-fire it is necessary to bring into the disengagement zone a contingent of forces which could assure complete fulfillment of the agreements. The situation in Bendery, the actions of uncontrolled left bank detachments which refused to subordinate to their own military leadership represent the greatest danger for today.

Kirtoake noted that a single coordination group began developing documents and ensuring the process of heavy equipment and armored vehicles withdrawal to the coordinated positions. A telephone communication and direct contact between the field commanders have been established. It's a pity but it has not brought a real stabilization, the adviser stressed. "Silence is not for ever".

Further Snegur's expert declared: "We suppose that bringing of a limited contingent of the Russian-Moldovan mixed forces into the disengagement zone will create real premises to the following sending of a limited armed contingent of Ukraine and Romania".

The measures to be undertaken coincide with the idea of Dagomys agreement on Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Kirtoake underlined that considering our peculiarities we are including a second stage—bringing international forces and inviting of officers from the UN peace-keeping forces. We also invite the CSCE supervisors. They are primarily experts on securing the rights of national minorities and human rights. According to the adviser, these steps must create premises for the parliament to return to considering the issue on Dniestrian status and on easing tension.

Nikolae Kirtoake reported that the leadership of Moldova hopes to receive an answer from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin already today.

Bendery City Council Sends Message

*LD1607131792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1204 GMT 16 Jul 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau July 16 TASS—The shelling of Bendery continues after the Moscow meeting between Russian

President Boris Yeltsin and President Mircea Snegur of Moldova, the Bendery city council said in an address to the Russian President and the Supreme Soviet of Russia.

The document points out that civilians continue to be killed in Bendery. Between July 1-14, 226 people alone were admitted into hospitals and 38 people were killed bringing the death toll to more than 500 people. Eighty thousand residents of the 150,000-strong population of Bendery became refugees. There are some 1,500 wounded. Damage to the city is estimated at 4.5 billion roubles.

The address by the Bendery city council points that the city, the defense of which was dismantled under the guarantees of Russia, Ukraine, Romania and Moldova, was shelled from heavy guns, tanks and mortars. Local authorities are doing everything possible to ensure the functioning of the city economy. A delay in political decisions brings to nought these efforts.

"We hope that the leadership of Russia will match its words with deeds," the address points out, "that effective measures to stop extermination of the people of the Dniester republic, and massive violation of international acts on human rights will be taken. It is a humane duty."

'No Peace' in Bendery; Ministers Resign

*LD1707103292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Jul 92*

[Text] Here is a chronicle of events in the Dniester region. Our correspondent, Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports.

[Varfolomeyev] There is still no peace in Bendery. From 2100 on 16 July 0030 on 17 July, the silk combine, the city center, and the executive committee building were fired upon from mortars and Alazan installations from Suvorovskaya Hill in the village of Gyska. There was an attempt to seize the railway station. The attackers were repelled and thrown back.

It was quiet in Dubossary. There has been as yet no information about casualties. According to a report by Colonel Mikhail Bergman, the Dniester Region Military Commandant, at 1600 on 16 July in Bendery, special forces of the Russian Army surrounded and captured a group of guardsmen, numbering 70 people, headed by Kostenko, the Bendery guard battalion commander. In Col. Bergman's view, that group was involved in destabilizing the situation in Bendery. Kostenko is to be charged soon with killing people and committing other crimes.

Meanwhile, two events took place in Chisinau which have attracted attention not only in the Dniester Region. One of them is the resignation of Ion Kostash and Anatoliy Plugaru, Ministers of Defense and Security, respectively, who were blatant supporters of continuing the war. It will become clear in the near future whether

or not the Moldova Government's policies will change after these notorious figures have left the government.

Another event is the decision by the Christian-Democratic People's Front of Moldova on the participation of members of the organization in the forthcoming elections to bodies of power in Romania. It is an obviously strange situation when citizens of an independent state are taking part in elections to bodies of power of another state. Perhaps we are witnessing yet another step toward the reunification of Moldova and Romania.

Acting Ministers Named

*LD1707095392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Jul 92*

[Text] Moldova's President Mircea Snegur has carried out the replacement of two key ministers, INTERFAX reports.

In the cabinet that is being formed, (Vasiliy Kalmoy), a cadre officer of the security bodies, has been appointed acting minister for national security of Moldova. He replaced in this post Anatoliy Plugaru, whose name is being linked with the stepping up of the war in the Dniester region.

First Deputy Minister Major General Pavel Kryange was appointed acting defense minister. Previously this post was held by General Ion Kostash. Kryange is a cadre servicemen who left for the reserves a few years ago, but during the creation of Moldova's National Army, he decided to continue his service.

Commanders Enforce Cease-Fire; 14th Army Neutral

*LD1707104192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0910 GMT 17 Jul 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Barykin]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Shooting began three times in the area of Dubossary and Bendery last night, but it was stopped by both sides after field commanders had a radio conversation. According to the press centre of the government of the Dniester Republic, no one was killed or wounded last night. With the exception of those cases of shooting, armistice is being observed, on the whole. Units of the 14th Army maintain "armed neutrality". No provocations were staged against the military, a spokesman for the press centre of the Dniester government told ITAR-TASS.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Leaves for Moscow

*LD1607120492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT
16 Jul 92*

[Report by correspondent V. Luskanov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This is a place where they still have not managed to keep the confronting armed formations sufficiently far apart. Therefore shots can be heard in the town.

For the moment, the authorities of the Dniester Republic are trying to stop the crime wave, without any particular success, and to get all their armed formations under unified control.

Meanwhile, Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester Republic, has flown to Moscow, taking the Tiraspol proposal for a peace settlement, which differs considerably from the one proposed by Russian Vice President Rutskoy. That is yet another problem for Boris Yeltsin.

At the same time, the first wedding has taken place in the town. May God keep you, Ruslan and Natalya. [video shows soldiers, army vehicles, and barricades in the town, and the wedding.]

Romanian Role in Dniester Conflict Assessed

PM1407131792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 14 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Dmitriy Fedorov: "Authorities in Chisinau Trying To Romanianize Dniester Region"]

[Text] The authorities in Chisinau are trying to Romanianize the Dniester region. That was the conclusion drawn by the International Society for the Protection of Human Rights, a delegation of which has toured Moldova and visited the Dniester Region.

The delegation members received "considerable evidence" that the Romanian Government is providing Moldovan extremists with military backing. In particular, Romania is "offering wide-ranging support" to the government in Chisinau, supplying Moldovan armed formations with "various weapons, munitions, and armored vehicles," a press report circulated by the U.S. branch of this rights-defense organization says. The press release stresses that the aim of Bucharest's policy is to facilitate as far as

possible the Chisinau authorities' steps to "Romanianize the Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian population of Moldova and suppress the desire for self-determination in the region of the Dniester Republic."

"It has been established that Romanian citizens are taking an active part in the Dniester regional conflict," the report says. "The International Society for the Protection of Human Rights has found convincing evidence and proof that the Moldovan Government is using Romanian military advisers and security forces to suppress the Dniester Region's desire for self-determination. There is also evidence that Moldovan troops are receiving training from the Romanian military and police."

"Press reports by some agencies are creating the impression that the Moldovans are fighting against Russians and Ukrainians living in the Dniester Region," the report says. "That does not accord with the real situation. Moldovans are also involved in the conflict on both sides. The reason for the conflict is not the question of the national rights of Russians and Ukrainians in the Dniester Region, but the desire of this region's entire population, including the Moldovan population, for self-determination."

"The Dniester Republic has the same right to self-determination as the Republic of Moldova. However, Moldova is now systematically suppressing the freedoms of Moldovans, Russians, and Ukrainians resident in this region." This has become possible on such a scale partially as a result of the total neutrality shown by the CIS and Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces. The 14th Army deployed in the Dniester Region is demoralized to a considerable extent at the fact that it has been forced to remain inactive in this regional conflict on direct orders from Russian President Boris Yeltsin." [quotation marks as published]

The leader of the U.S. branch of the International Society for the Protection of Human Rights said that the organization has documented proof of Bucharest's military intervention in the conflict between Chisinau and the Dniester Region.

Kazakhstan

Minister on Nuclear Weapons Elimination

LD1607141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1254 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma Ata July 16 TASS—Strategic nuclear missiles, still deployed in Kazakhstan, are under reliable control of its Defense Ministry. The timetable for their elimination, envisaged by appropriate agreements, will be strictly observed. This statement was made on Thursday [16 July] by State Advisor Tulegen Zhukeyev and Defense Minister of Kazakhstan Colonel General Sagadat Nurmagambetov at a meeting with a visiting delegation of the U.S. Defense Department.

Speaking about the problems of establishment of Kazakhstan's Armed Forces, Nurmagambetov emphasized that they will consist of small but highly mobile forces. The defense minister noted the significance of the treaty with Russia which provides for Russian assistance in solving that problem.

The delegation also met Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko.

Council of Europe Officials Hold Conference

TA1607212892 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Catherine Lalumiere, Council of Europe [COE] secretary general, has said that Turkey, because of its location in the region, carries a big responsibility and constitutes a good example for its neighbors as a country that has overcome important problems of democratization and human rights.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, current president of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, and Lalumiere, who are continuing their visit to former Soviet republics, left Georgia today for Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan. Okan Aykin reports from Alma-Ata:

Kazakhstan has a significant place among the central Asian republics because of its rich natural resources. As the other members of the CIS, Kazakhstan is also making efforts to adapt to the changing world. Cetin and Lalumiere held official talks in Alma-Ata to examine those efforts on the spot. They called first on Kazakhstan's Vice President Yerik Asanbayev. They also had talks with certain senior officials.

Cetin and Lalumiere held a joint news conference later. Speaking during the news conference, Cetin said that the civilized world must help solve the problems emerging in the republics that were established in the wake of the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and that are going through a transition. Cetin indicated that the foreign ministers of those countries will be invited to the

extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Council of Europe in Istanbul on 10 and 11 September.

Lalumiere said that Turkey and Kazakhstan have the necessary experience to conduct bilateral cooperation. She added that the recent changes make cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Council of Europe mandatory.

Earlier, Lalumiere replied to questions by journalists aboard the airplane. To the question of why the West is using double standards by not expressing the same sensitivity in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Karabakh as it did in the Gulf crisis, she said that the West's reaction on those issues has been very slow. Pointing out that there is also a problem of jurisdiction, Lalumiere said that international law and organizations must be organized in a way that will allow a swifter reaction in similar situations.

Vice President Urges Joining European Council

OW1707115192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1110 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh Vice-President Yerik Asanbayev expressed a wish of the republic's government to join the European Council at his meeting in Alma-Ata yesterday, Thursday [16 July], with a delegation of the European Council led by the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

During the talk he spoke of the economic reforms being carried out by the republic's government. He said that a new draft constitution has been published for nationwide discussion and will be presented to the 9th session of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet in autumn.

Romanian Foreign Minister Nastase Visits

AU1607165992 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
0854 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Alma Ata, ROMPRES, 16/7/1992—"We are particularly interested in Romania, as we live in the same Euro-Asiatic region and we have known each other for long. I think it is particularly important for both parties that diplomatic and economic ties be established between Romania and Kazakhstan", Erik Asanbaev, vicepresident of the Republic of Kazakhstan said at the close of the interview he had Wednesday, July 15, at Alma Ata, with Adrian Nastase, Romanian minister of foreign affairs.

The visit to Kazakhstan was the first leg of the tour the Romanian minister of foreign affairs is making in five central Asian countries, former Soviet republics, i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and Turkistan.

Singling out the importance of this political-diplomatic step, Adrian Nastase mentioned that he considers "Kazakhstan to have been successful after the collapse of the Soviet Union".

For his part, the foreign minister of Kazakhstan, T.S. Suleymenov mentioned: "I am of the opinion that after diplomatic relations are established between our countries, we have special prospects, as our two states want to have ties at a new qualitative level. People want to live in peace and good understanding".

Besides the protocol on establishing diplomatic relations, signed at the close of the talks between the two foreign ministers, a commercial accord was initiated and a number of framework-documents were negotiated, on the development of bilateral relations, as well as a sketch of cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

The second leg of the tour of the head of the Romanian diplomacy is Biskek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, where Minister Nastase met Imanalyev Muratbek interim minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

The Romanian delegation was received by the prime minister of the host country, Gherman Kuznetsov. Issues were tackled of bilateral interest and concerning the international life.

Sociological Studies Evaluate Economic Reform

OW1707082992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0754 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Problems & Opinions"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The group of sociological studies at the information center of the Supreme Council of Kazakhstan has circulated an account based on the results of its sociological survey conducted in connection with the republic's current economic reform.

The analysis of the respondents' reaction reveals that the economic situation in this seemingly well-off republic is far from being prosperous. 24.5 percent of the respondents have acknowledged a considerable comedown of their standards of living in the recent year, and 43.7 percent admitted their relative decrease.

In the meantime, Kazakhstan is going through the process of economic polarization of its population. 1.6 percent of the respondents claim that they have considerably improved their material standing, 8.2 percent admitting a relative improvement of their living standards.

Most respondents (45 percent) try to resolve their material constraints by way of cutting on various expenditures. 18.7 percent are resorting to a more rational diet, 9.7 percent sustain themselves by gradually selling their property. The overwhelming majority of the respondents (19.2 percent) fail to find any pliable solutions to their material problems.

Noteworthy, in spite of a considerable decrease in the standards of living, most residents in the republic are unenthusiastic about market economy. Only 7.8 percent of the respondents contemplate venturing entrepreneurship,

21.8 percent want bigger income, 12.4 percent of the respondents wishing to make more money on the side.

According to the results of the sociological survey, 36.6 percent of the respondent are skeptical about the success of the current economic reform with 41.2 percent undecided. 19.6 percent claim they have confidence in President Nazarbayev's efforts, while 2.6 percent evaded the answer.

In other words, conclusively, the population of Kazakhstan has serious reservations about the success of the economic reforms initiated by the government.

The analysis of the respondents' answers also indicates that the people's greatest anxiety remains the continuing price hike (76.3 percent), 52.5 percent being perturbed by the shortage of food stuffs and exigent goods.

The residents of Kazakhstan are still concerned with a possibility of a strong authoritarian backlash which would infringe on their democratic freedoms. 12.2 percent of the respondents say they would welcome such changes, while 13.4 percent want Kazakhstan to return to the socialist way of development.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev on Contribution to Russian Recovery

OW1507181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1638 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev speaking in Bishkek on Tuesday night [14 July] said the agenda of the next CIS in the Kyrgyz capital on September 25 would focus on Commonwealth rules, the narrowing of economic legislation, cooperation in rescue and relief operations in the event of calamities and emergency situations, and the agreement on the CIS economic council with headquarters in Kiev.

On the economic council, Akayev welcomed the idea of such institutions which helped implement agreements reached and towards real cooperation.

On the implementation of the bilateral agreement with Russia, the Kyrgyz leader said that algebra rather than arithmetics must be used to evaluate the importance of relations with Russia. However, he admitted that the deal had prompted a mixed response in Kyrgyzstan adding that sceptics were critical of the agreement because of infringing on the republic's interests. The president said Russia had always complied with requests by the Kyrgyz government.

He said Kyrgyzstan was the only CIS country to have received an easy term credit of Rbl [ruble] 10 bln [billion] spread over ten years, with this being written down in Russia's government budget paper. Akayev said that a different yardstick must be used to size up Russia

because of its unique position between the two big continents-Europe and Asia. He said the Euro-Asian entity hinged on Russia would collapse if it ceased to be a world power, with painful implications for Kyrgyzstan as well. That is why we must try to make our contribution to Russia's revival, said the Kyrgyz leader.

Romanian Foreign Minister Begins Visit

AU1607190592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1749 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Biskek ROMPRES 16/7/1992—Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Adrian Nastase now on a visit to Kyrgyzstan met with the foreign minister ad interim of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Murat Imanaliyev, when analysis was made of aspects concerning the development of bilateral relations in various fields.

On the signing of the protocol on the collaboration between the foreign departments in the two countries, Adrian Nastase showed that other two projects were under study in the commerce and culture domains. After the establishment of the diplomatic relations Adrian Nastase considered that "we are in a new stage, the main concern should be the setting up of a new juridical framework which does not exist or, better said, is somehow blocked by the former juridical framework we had with the ex-USSR. From this point of view we are to start consultations to see which of those agreements remain valid for the relations between us and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan."

In his turn, Murat Imanaliyev emphasised in his statements that the Republic of Kyrgyzstan considers Romania as a key-country in the Eastern European area and from this point of view the ties with it are of special importance.

Council of Europe Delegation Arrives for Talks

TA1707102592 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
0940 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Bishkek, July 17 (A.A)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived on Friday [17 July] in the Kyrgyz capital on the fourth day of a tour of five ex-Soviet republics, as the current chairman of the Ministerial Committee of the 27-nation Council of Europe (COE).

Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council, is accompanying him to visit Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to try to strengthen their links with Europe.

They were met at Bishkek airport by Deputy Premier [title as received] of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev.

After concluding their contacts in Bishkek with senior officials of the Kyrgyz Government, Cetin and Lalumiere will leave on Saturday [18 July] for the Uzbek capital Tashkent.

Tajikistan

Prime Minister Returns From Afghan Visit

OW1607171992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Tajik delegation led by Prime Minister Akbar Mirzoyev has returned to Dushanbe from an unofficial visit to Afghanistan. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], the Chairman of the National Security Committee, Adiljon Salibayev, made a positive appraisal of the results of the visit. He said the Tajik and Afghan security services had found "points of contact" on such matters as providing the security of the Tajik-Afghan border and fighting drug trafficking, contraband, terrorism, and illicit arms trade.

Nabiyev Holds News Conference 14 Jul

LD1507195992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] This morning at 1000, President Rakhmon Nabiyev met with representatives of the mass media. At this news conference, the journalists asked the president about the meeting of heads of CIS states in Moscow and the summit in Helsinki on security and cooperation in Europe. [passage indistinct]

Plan To Create Strong Border Guard Reported

LD1607153792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0924 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Tajik authorities are planing to create a 1,200-men strong Border Guard Regiment as most Russian officers leave the Central Asian Republic, according to a military expert from the Turkestan Military District.

However, to create the regiment which is to consist of three battalions considerable finances are necessary and it may appear only with the help of the Commonwealth, Rashid Dustov told TASS on Thursday [16 July].

The latest flare up of religious and political struggle in Central Asia triggered a mass exodus of Russia-speaking population from the region. Most officers serving in the national armies there are ethnic Russians. They resolutely oppose participating in disarming illegal armed groups consisting of local citizens as they fear they might get involved in a fratricidal civil war, according to Dustov.

Many officers have sent their families to Russia, others are leaving themselves, he added.

This weakened the border guard control and a massive flow of drugs and weapons is going to the Central Asian

Republics. Local authorities want to keep the border closed, but have no money for that, Dustov said.

Bilateral Relations With Uzbekistan Assessed

LD1507184392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The question of bilateral relations between our republic and neighboring Uzbekistan is considered to be important. [Passage indistinct]. Very recently a meeting took place between [word indistinct] two neighboring republics' governments at the level of the first deputy prime ministers. They signed a protocol on the question of refugees.

Another question arises however. This is no secret. Uzbekistan does not accept on its airports, airplanes from the Civil Aviation Tajikavia. [Word indistinct] and Autotransport. This is not a good way of tackling the problem. In addition we have received reports that Tajik schools in Uzbekistan are being closed and that the Samarkand Tajik University has been closed. The holding of a Forum of Tajik people in Uzbekistan has also been banned. [passage indistinct]. Surely this cannot be real. It is thus also important to tackle these questions.

Organization Formed To Combat Major Crime

PM1607100792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Ministry of Internal Affairs' Role Increasing"]

[Text] Dushanbe—A new subunit will appear in the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs structure in the very near future.

It will be called the main administration for disarming illegal armed formations and for combating the most dangerous types of crime. The need for structural innovation in the Ministry of Internal Affairs system emerged when it became obvious that President R. Nabiyev's repeated decrees asking people to voluntarily hand over their weapons were not being carried out and that, correspondingly, the main cause of the unstable political situation was being maintained. The administration, which is expected to employ strict powers, will have a staff of one thousand.

Turkmenistan

Efforts To Form National Guard Noted

OW1607193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov charged the newly formed republican Ministry of Defense with responsibility for developing a proposition on national guard. The Defense Minister Danatar Kopekov declared to "IF" [INTERFAX] that the rumors that this is the cause of delay in signing a wide-scale military treaty with Russia are absolutely groundless. "Turkmenistan firmly adheres the position of concluding a military treaty with Russia".

Speaking on the functions of the national guard being created, Kopekov noted "it will remind neither Tajik nor Georgian variants". The guard will provide safety and security of the presidential palace and the parliament. The head of the military department stressed that the Russian officers undergoing service on the Turkmenian territory must not worry about their fate and they can continue their service. The Minister also reported that Russia can send its soldiers and sergeants to serve in Turkmenistan if they express their wish. It is supposed that soldiers and sergeants - residents of Turkmenistan can be trained on the Russian territory.

According to the presidential press service, the treaty with Russia is scheduled to be signed in September. Primarily the head of the state intended to do this on June 10 and then the term was postponed again. Minister Kopekov reported that the text of the agreement has been initialled by specialists and at present Niyazov and Yeltsin have an opportunity to present their remarks to the last draft variant. The agreement is expected to be in force for 5 years.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the member of the presidential council of Turkmenistan Vice Premier Nazar Suyunov, the creation of the national Turkmenian armed forces under the joint command of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan envisaged by the draft treaty will help Russia, firstly, to retain all the existing forces stationed on the Turkmenian territory at the same level granting them a new legal status and, secondly, to save Russia from the need to build defensive facilities on the South of the Urals. According to the Turkmenian Vice Premier Otchertsov, the national armed forces of Turkmenistan under a joint command of Turkmenistan and Russian Federation will be created on the basis of two formations - Kushka and Kizyl-Arvat divisions - and several other detachments. Air defense units and some of the strategic air force units will be in the composition of the Russian Federation armed forces. For the time being, nobody of the senior representatives of the leadership is ready to call the definite number of armed forces under joint command but information from governmental sources states that it will amount for about 42 thousand people. According to the information distributed earlier, about 110 thousand troops are stationed on the Turkmenian territory.

President Niyazov has signed a decree on alternative labor service on the territory of Turkmenistan. If a conscript has a persuading refusal, military duty can be replaced by labor duty. The term of the labor duty

constitutes 2 years (recently it has been fixed that draft service for people with higher education will be one year and two years in the Navy). The presidential press service told "IF" that the alternative service is to be organized on the republican construction sites of national economy.

Another Niyazov decree fixes the transformation of the Ministry of Defense Affairs into Defense Ministry announced earlier.

No Contradiction to Russian Accords Noted

OW1507182292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1612 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Turkmenian Defense Minister Danatar Kopekov reconfirmed to "IF" [INTERFAX] that "Turkmenistan firmly stands for conclusion of a military treaty with Russia". According to Kopekov, the intention of Turkmenia to create its own national armed forces "does not contradict" to the Russian-Turkmenian military agreements being developed.

The Minister reported that the text of the 5-year agreement was initiated by the specialists and was submitted to the heads of both states for consideration. Turkmenistan is creating its own national armed forces under

joint command of Russia and Turkmenistan. A part of the air defense units will be in the composition of the Russian armed forces.

Uzbekistan

Decree Exempts Scientific Research From VAT

PM1507075192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report: "Exempt From Value-Added Tax [VAT]"]

[Text] Tashkent—Scientific research being carried out on the basis of economic contracts, and innovative work being done at Uzbekistan's scientific research institutes and higher educational establishments has been exempted from value-added tax [VAT] for four years.

This decree has been adopted by President Islam Karimov. It is well known what a hard time our scientists are having under the economic crisis conditions, and the ill-starred VAT was another form of bondage. In order to enhance the role of science, the republic's government has been instructed to adopt within a week a corresponding resolution to ensure more fruitful activity by the scientific community.

Armenia

President Directed To Draft Security Program

OW1607181892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following the discussion of the situation in the regions bordering on Azerbaijan last night, the parliament issued a directive instructing President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to draft a national security program. The program has to be presented to the parliament within a month's time. The directive also stresses urgent need for legislation on the state of emergency, martial law, defense, the military prosecutor, the national frontier, and some other laws.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Armenian ex-Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan, who had headed the commission investigating the situation in the border regions, said the discussion had been very businesslike and that everyone seemed to be interested. In his view, this shows that everybody comes together ignoring their party affiliation when their country is in danger.

Relations Discussed With Russian Ambassador

OW1607132592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An ambassador is designed [word as received] to do his best to strengthen and expand diplomatic, political, economic and cultural relations between the country he represents and the country where he is accredited. This is how Russia's Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin described his major task.

He would like to make his own contribution to the efforts to establish between Russia and Armenia "privileged" relations, like those maintained between the former USSR and France.

According to V. Stupishin, Russia should maintain such relations with all formerly Soviet republics, particularly with the ones that have joined the CIS and work to create coordination and cooperation mechanisms.

The Russian Ambassador believes that Armenia, which not only joined the CIS, but also signed the agreement on collective security, is one of such states. "Armenia is extremely interested in maintaining bilateral ties with Russia and in promoting cooperation in the framework of the CIS", he said.

According to V. Stupishin, this can be explained not only by Armenia's complicated geopolitical situation, but also by purely humanitarian considerations. "Our cultural contacts with the Armenians are almost three centuries

old. Mutual influence, interaction and mutual liking between scientists and cultural workers in Russia and Armenia have old traditions which have been maintained to this day".

It's also important that the representatives of Armenian intellectuals with friendly feelings toward Russia are currently in power in Yerevan. The diplomat views this as "subjective preconditions" for privileged relations between Russia and Armenia.

V. Stupishin believes that both Russia and Armenia share the desire to build "good, amicable and close" relations in politics. "In the field of economic ties the situation is rather more complicated. The tough blockade against Armenia in the area of transport and sources of energy hinders the striving to develop such ties".

V. Stupishin dwelled on the situation of some 50,000 ethnic Russians living in Armenia. "It's not bad at all", he said. According to him, the Russian community in Armenia feels no discrimination against it either from the authorities or from the ordinary people. Witness the fact that the Russian Orthodox Church reopened its cathedral in Yerevan recently.

"The positive role" played by Russia's 7th Army stationed in Armenia is one of the subjective and objective factors that enable Russia and Armenia to have privileged relations. The army's command has maintained "an amicable relationship" with the leaders, the military and the people of Armenia. The diplomat views this as an opportunity for establishing privileged relations between Russia and Armenia in the field of military cooperation too.

V. Stupishin said he doubts that the "tragic" incident in Gyumri (formerly Leninakan) as a result of which 5 Russian servicemen died "will influence the development of ties between Russia and Armenia in general or in the military area in particular".

The diplomat refrained from evaluating what had happened and pointed to the need to await the results of investigations in which both Armenian and Russian officials are taking part.

According to V. Stupishin, "incidents which unfortunately take place sometimes must not aggravate relations between countries; they must only serve as lessons for the future". "It's necessary to create conditions that would rule out incidents". This is one of the tasks faced by ambassadors, he said. "With this aim in view one must be on the spot to know the situation better".

In this connection V. Stupishin deplored the fact that in Armenia Russia has its ambassador, but no embassy. The trouble is that "a final decision on financing Russian embassies in Armenia and in other CIS countries has not been taken yet".

With reference to problems in the bilateral relationship V. Stupishin pointed to the need to build a legal base for it. "It's necessary to formalize legally the new quality of

relations between Russia and Armenia which have become independent members of the world community".

In this connection the diplomat deplored the fact that the treaty signed by President Boris Yeltsin and his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan has not been ratified by the two parliaments yet. "MPs [members of parliament] have doubts in regard to the treaty's articles that concern the ensurance of security".

V. Stupishin said he hopes that the issue of ratifying the treaty signed between Russia and Armenia will be resolved in the process of "settling collective relations in the framework of the CIS". Nevertheless the treaty already serves as a basis for drafting a number of bilateral agreements in concrete areas.

The diplomat mentioned the Russian President's decree under which a delegation led by the special envoy Vsevolod Oleandrov was formed for talks with Armenia. Yerevan formed a similar delegation. They are expected to gather for their first plenary session in Yerevan in the near future to set up working groups which will engage in drafting agreements in concrete areas.

Nagorno-Karabakh Recognition Talks Postponed

PM1507135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Bablunyan report: "Yerevan Postpones Recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian parliament has postponed the proposal from the "National Alliance" opposition bloc to again include on the agenda of the current session the question of recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

Parliamentary speaker Babiyen Araktsyan stated that they should restrict themselves to the previously adopted compromise decision henceforth to consider null and void any official agreements in which the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is described as being part of Azerbaijan.

Judging by everything, the opposition will be unable to force parliament to return to an examination of this issue.

Details of Ter-Petrosyan's 'KGB Ties' Noted

PM1707111592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Bablunyan report: "Armenian President Accused of KGB Ties"]

[Text] Yerevan—The "Dashnaktsutyun" party's official printed organ, the newspaper AZATAMART, has published a photocopy of Armenian KGB biographical details on Levon Ter-Petrosyan, marked "top secret," on the basis of which the paper draws the conclusion that the present Armenian president is a security officer.

The document is dated October 1981 and contains the following information. The scientific secretary of Matenadaran (the Institute of Ancient Manuscripts under the Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers) is described by his place of work as a disciplined, conscientious worker. He enjoys standing as a serious and highly promising academic. In everyday life he is modest, punctual, and has many friends; he is mild of character and responsive. He has a command of the Armenian, Russian, Arabic, and French languages.

At the end of the biographical details it mentions that it is expedient to leave "Reserve Lieutenant Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan in the USSR KGB's special reserve." In commentaries and publications which Eduard Oganessian, director of the Munich Institute of Armenian Problems, has prepared, Levon Ter-Petrosyan is directly named as a KGB agent with the personal number Zh-385292. As Eduard Oganessian asserts, the future Armenian president began cooperating with the KGB in May 1977 after an agent from this very department nicknamed Kazbek recommended Levon Ter-Petrosyan to his leadership, describing him as a truthful, honest, and highly educated specialist enjoying standing among his fellow staffers.

The president's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, made a statement to the press on the subject of AZATAMART's piece. Shugaryan explained that in accordance with a procedure which was effective in the 1960's, all graduates of Yerevan University's Faculty of Eastern Studies automatically, and without their knowledge, were put on the KGB reserve to be used, should this prove necessary, as military translators.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan was also registered on this very basis. As the press secretary emphasized, the present Armenian president was called up for military service in the airborne units, and in 1980, when a group of 150 military translators was sent to Afghanistan, he refused to go on the special tour of duty for political reasons. After that he was not allowed to leave the country and until 1989, did not cross the former USSR's border.

When publishing the compromising materials about the Armenian president, the newspaper AZATAMART reports that the editorial office received the photocopy of the document through "Dashnaktsutyun" party channels, which in turn has given the president's press service grounds for accusing the members of that party of having ties with the KGB.

As it has emerged, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who has accused "Dashnaktsutyun" party leader Grayr Marukhyan of having ties with the former USSR's secret services, is waiting for the latter to turn to the courts, after which he intends to publish evidence of "Dashnaktsutyun" members' cooperation with the security organs.

Nagorno-Karabakh Official Interviewed

MK1707102192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Georgiy Petrosyan, acting chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet, by Liana Minasyan; place and date not given: "We Are Still Keeping Seats in Parliament for Azeri Deputies"]

[Text] [Minasyan] What has changed during the four years of the Karabakh confrontation?

[Petrosyan] In 1988 we felt the same as a slave feels when he has gotten a chance to obtain freedom. People who have known the taste of this freedom will hardly renounce it.

[Minasyan] Then Karabakh was a problem for Russia, now it is being discussed at CSCE conferences. As a result....

[Petrosyan] As a result, since the Karabakh problem became the subject of international attention, the war has moved another notch higher. Today third countries have also begun playing their part in the conflict.

[Minasyan] Is there a link between the military pressure on Karabakh—the taking of Shaumyanovsk and Mardakert—and the diplomatic pressure, when your delegation was being insistently invited to the Rome conferences at the time of the Azeri offensive?

[Petrosyan] In any case, the military parity that had existed for the past few months was upset, and the imbalance in arms, which led to the taking of northern regions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, was created deliberately. A mercenaries' institute has been set up in Azerbaijan. The process of transferring military hardware to Armenia and Azerbaijan did not proceed in parallel—there was no hurry with Armenia. That is politics. Azerbaijan decided to "have done with" the problem by force, and certain countries are giving it military aid in their own interests. This is connected with the fact that Azerbaijan's geopolitical orientations now are new and "advantageous."

Azerbaijan proposes several ways out of the war—the deportation of Armenians, the annihilation of the population, or the dragging of Armenia into the war. For the time being they want to squeeze us out of Nagorno-Karabakh, as from a tube, into Armenia along the Stepanakert-Lachin-Goris road. Therefore aircraft are used a few days before a tank offensive.

[Minasyan] The fall of Shaumyanovsk resulted in a political confrontation in Yerevan. What was Stepanakert's attitude to this?

[Petrosyan] They want to drag Armenia into this war against its will. It is up to its government to decide what to do in this situation. However, neither Yerevan nor

Stepanakert must introduce an imbalance into the political situation—we need a common approach to the problem.

After the fall of Shaumyanovsk there was a lot of speculation on this topic and accusations of treachery. I do not think anyone could intentionally give up his own village, his own home. Several parliamentary commissions are working now both in Karabakh and in Armenia—they will provide the answer.

[Minasyan] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has been proclaimed an independent republic. Must the Armenian Government answer for its policies and be responsible for the fate of Karabakh?

[Petrosyan] The Armenian Government is obliged to be responsible for what happens in Karabakh—before the entire Armenian people, as well as our authorities. We both—Levon Ter-Petrosyan and I—bear equal responsibility before our people. Not only we, but there is a different degree of responsibility.

[Minasyan] The Karabakh authorities are faced with the problem of uncontrolled armed groupings, are they not?

[Petrosyan] We have a law on the army, and one-man command exists. However, there are those who understood early on, the need for armed resistance—those to whom the example of Sumgait explained a great deal. They are ready to defend themselves, without joining the official military structures. They are independent as people, they are not soldiers, but they are no less ready to fight than soldiers, and they understand no less than soldiers that it is necessary to coordinate common efforts.

[Minasyan] Why was the population prohibited from leaving Karabakh?

[Petrosyan] This was dictated by economic considerations—with the opening of a humanitarian corridor, the sharp difference in prices could have caused speculation.

[Minasyan] Are the Karabakh authorities indifferent as to what kind of government in Azerbaijan they deal with?

[Petrosyan] At any rate, I count more on the good sense of the Azeri people, who suffer no less than ours, but not on the authorities. I take a different attitude to Azeris from Karabakh, if only because I myself am acquainted with many of them. The Azeris will realize that their authorities are lying to them. They lie, for example, by saying that Nagorno-Karabakh is their property. They consider that Armenia is trying to annex a "piece of land" with the help of military force, but this is not so: Nagorno-Karabakh preserved vestiges of statehood far longer than Armenia itself. We proposed a political compromise to both Azerbaijan and Armenia—the creation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, in which equal rights would be presented to its Azeri population. We invited them to a referendum, you know. However, Baku officialdom deprived them of the right to choose by

drawing them into the war with us. This was done simply—every village was turned into a strong military base. I myself witnessed Artur Mkrtchyan's conversation with Mutalibov, and I know that although we allowed the population to leave Khodzhal (no state can guarantee its citizens' safety under conditions of combat operations), there were clashes between the city's residents and the Azerbaijani army. Whereas together we have been able to choose a compromise—and peace.

These people must not suffer because their life has become part of a political game. Otherwise we would not be keeping seats in our parliament for Azeri deputies.

'Uncontrolled Formations' Blamed for Seizures

LD1607211592 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The situation regarding Russian forces on the Armenian and Nakhichevan border is being aggravated. This was reported through the RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA newspaper by Major General Babenko, commander of the border district.

The Nakhichevan leadership has allegedly been making harsh demands that the border guards leave the confines of Nakhichevan. One border post has already been seized. True, Geydar Aliyev, the leader of Nakhichevan, immediately said that this was the work of uncontrolled formations.

Tax Inspectors Permitted To Use Firearms

OW1607184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The cabinet has allowed officers of the State Tax Inspectorate to bear arms and use them "within limits set by law." The Tax Inspectorate, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Ministry of Justice have been instructed to compile a list of such officers. According to the government press service, the decision was necessary in order to provide adequate security for Tax Inspectorate officers.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: As already reported by IF, the Russian government is planning to invite several thousand army officers to work as tax inspectors. They will apparently also be allowed to bear arms.

Azerbaijan

Officials View Outcome of Helsinki CSCE Meeting

NC1607113092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference at the Presidential Office on 14 July, Vefa Kulizade, state adviser on foreign affairs, said: One of the main results of the Helsinki meeting was acceptance of the fact that Azerbaijan is a peaceful and democratic country that is ready to establish relations with foreign countries in accordance with CSCE principles. These principles call for mutual respect and good-neighborly relations and reaffirm that borders cannot be violated and territories cannot be fragmented.

Presidential Press Office head Niyazi Ibragimov replied to questions from domestic and foreign journalists.

It was noted that President Elchibey signed two important documents in Helsinki—the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1992 Helsinki Document [senet].

The signing of the two documents created an opportunity for the CSCE countries to prepare [words indistinct] to remove existing disputes. This will have a significant bearing on existing disputes in republics that were part of the former Soviet Union.

The CSCE meeting in Helsinki allowed the Azerbaijani delegation to explain for the first time Azerbaijan's stand on the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The meeting's participants supported Azerbaijan's approach. This has been confirmed by the positive results of the talks President Elchibey had with President Bush and President Yeltsin.

Foreign Minister on Russian, CIS Ties

OW1607205092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Baku intends to conclude bilateral mutually beneficial agreements with Moscow in the frameworks of which the issues of economic cooperation, a status and terms of staying of the CIS forces in Azerbaijan and border problems between the two parties are to be developed, the Azeri Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov declared on Thursday [16 July] at a press conference in Baku. According to the Minister, "the borders between Russia and Azerbaijan can remain open".

Speaking on the Azeri approach to the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri relations, he noted that according to the international law Azerbaijan "recognizes the right of the national minorities for cultural autonomy if the national minority recognizes its citizenship in this state".

Making comments on the prospects to use the CIS "blue helmets" to solve the Karabakh conflict, he noted that

Azerbaijan has not changed its position and gives preference to the efforts of the CSCE in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and will attract only the CSCE armed forces.

Armenian Resolution Termed 'Open Aggression'

TA1707091392 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio
in Turkish to Cyprus 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani parliament has declared that the Armenian parliament decision not to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan constitutes open aggression against Azerbaijan. A resolution adopted by the Azerbaijani parliament noted that this provocative Armenian decision, which violates the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, cannot have any legal validity. The Azerbaijani resolution also asked the relevant parliamentary organs and the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry to inform all relevant international organizations, particularly the CSCE, of the Armenian decision, which violates international law and Armenia's commitments deriving from agreements it has signed.

Further Reportage on 'Bitter Fighting'

OW1607195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The most bitter fighting yet between Armenians and Azerbaijanis occurred the night of July 16 in the Agderinski (Mardakertski) and Gadrutski regions of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to reports from Azerbaijan's defense ministry. The ministry reported that in the Agderinski region, Armenian formations attacked Azerbaijani positions at the Ter-Terski reservoir in Gadrutski, near the village of Shagar. The attacks, however, were repelled. Armenia lost several armoured vehicles, heavy guns, and a multiple rocket launcher. Four Azerbaijanis were killed and six wounded.

The defense ministry also reported on the continued shelling of the regional centers Agdam and Fizuli, located along the Karabakh border, of inhabited areas in the Kazakh and Zangelan regions of Azerbaijan, and of the village of Sadarak in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic. As a result of the shelling during the night from Azeri villages in Armenia two people were killed and six injured.

According to the Karabakh News Agency (KNA), six people were killed in the direct shelling of an apartment house in the Armenian village of Nakhichevanik (Askeranski Region of Karabakh). Missile and artillery fire in the regional center Askeran also resulted in dead and wounded. Two more Armenian villagers were killed by Azerbaijani shelling Thursday [16 July] night in the Martuninski and Gadrutski regions.

KNA also reported that Armenian units "are confidently maintaining their hold on the recently liberated" Armenian villages in the Mardakertski region, as well as the Sarsang hydroelectric plant.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Assures Kavsadze 'In No Danger'

OW1607205192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [16 July] the Georgian State Assembly discussed the situation in Abkhazia arising from strikes by police officers of Georgian nationality.

Appearing at the session, State Assembly chairman Eduard Shevardnadze expressed his opinion that the worst situation was now in the Galski region of Abkhazia, where the remaining supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have concentrated. Local police are doing nothing as an act of insubordination to Abkhaz authorities.

Shevardnadze claimed that the strike would not solve the problem and stressed, "police officers should fulfill their duties."

Shevardnadze declared that he would probably be travelling to Western Georgia at the beginning of next week. He gave no answer to a question concerning the whereabouts of Georgian Vice Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze, who was abducted by Zviadists a few days ago. Shevardnadze only assured those present that he was in no danger.

Shevardnadze Clarifies Peacekeeping Force Role

OW1607141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1307 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of Georgia's State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze, said that the introduction of the peacekeeping force to South Ossetia "does not mean that Georgian-Ossetian conflict has assumed international character". "We have consciously conceded to joining the effects of two states for the sake of putting an end to this senseless and purposeless bloodshed", reads his Thursday [16 July] statement to the people of Georgia.

So long as the talks in Tskhinvali and Kazbek have not borne any good results, "taking into account the Russian factor became a must", Eduard Shevardnadze went on. He also noted a constructive contribution the Russian president made into settling the conflict.

In the words of Eduard Shevardnadze, there existed an alternative option for settling the conflict in South

Ossetia—through the mediation of the UN peacekeeping force. Yet, he admitted that it would have taken many months to implement this.

In the meantime, the Merab Kostava All-Georgian Society claimed that the introduction of the tripartite peacekeeping force into the Tskhinvali region was "an erratic step". In their statement circulated this Thursday the society emphasizes that it "regards as unjustified the invitation of armed citizens of another interested party to the Georgian territory".

Shevardnadze Discusses Situation in Balkans

LD1607162692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1535 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara July 16 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, on a visit in Turkey, said in an interview to local and foreign journalists here on Thursday [16 July] that he is optimistic about the future project of creating a Black Sea zone of economic cooperation. "Tension is reigning in the Balkans and in the Caucasus, so drawing countries of these regions into a Black Sea project is of extreme importance", he said.

Shevardnadze noted he favours a peaceful solution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said that about one million of Azerbaijanians and Armenians reside in Georgia, and the continuation of clashes in Karabakh threatens Georgia with undesirable consequences. Shevardnadze said Georgia is prepared for cooperation with Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey to resolve the Karabakh question.

Touching upon the situation in Georgia, Shevardnadze said that the main problem of the country is holding general elections and electing a democratic parliament. The most important task is making reforms aimed at the democratisation of society. Disturbances that began in Georgia on June 24 with the attempt at a state coup continue. Groups headed by the ousted president operate in the west of Georgia. "We shall toughen measures to combat terrorism", Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze also noted that he looks forward to the visit of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Tbilisi late in July. During the negotiations, the sides will discuss security questions and specific steps to implement the project of Black Sea cooperation. Shevardnadze expressed gratitude to the Turkish Government for humanitarian aid to Georgia.

'Charred Remains' Said To Be Kidnapped Official

OW1607181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1714 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A source in Georgia's Internal Affairs Ministry told Interfax that on July 14 in Tbilisi a car was discovered with the charred remains of a body inside. According to information received so far, it is the body of Anzor Adzhaya, an assistant to Dzhaba Ioseliani, the deputy chairman of the republic's State Soviet and one of the leaders of the "Mkhedrioni" group. Adzhaya was recently abducted in the Georgian capital.

The Georgian agency "Snarke" reports that, in all probability, Adzhaya was abducted by supporters of ex-president (former president?) Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who have gone underground in Tbilisi.

Russian Troops Exceed Agreement in Tskhinvali

OW1707123492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1110 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Georgian State Council's commission for the Tskhinvali region and the Popular Front's leader Nodar Natadze has declared that the Russian troops which have entered the region exceed by far the agreed 500 men. In reality, he says, they number, by a preliminary count, 2,000.

The press-centre of Russia's Defence Ministry refused to confirm the number.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] Natadze, who returned Wednesday [15 July] from the conflict zone, noted another violation of the agreements—the fact that Georgian peace-makers have not entered Tskhinvali. He thinks that the peace-making force "will suspend the conflict for some time". But he is not sure they will "lead to desired peace".

Russian Peacekeeper Killed in Tskhinvali

LD1607210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1856 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tskhinvali, South Ossetia July 16 Tass—A truck, carrying Russian paratroopers belonging to the peacekeeping contingent which arrived in South Ossetia on July 14, exploded after it hit a land mine on a country road on Thursday [16 July] evening. One soldier died, three were injured. A committee, consisting of Russian, Georgian and Ossetian representatives will investigate the incident.

Interior Minister Views Ouster, Abkhaz Problem

AU1507134192 Tbilisi SIMARTLE in Georgian
Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Givi Lominadze, Abkhaz minister of internal affairs, by Tsira Kistauri; place and date not given: "Unconcealed Intentions"]

[Text] "An armed band, so-called military formations of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic Supreme Council composed of many previously convicted persons having a dark past and present, took advantage of the obvious cowardice of a number of our colleagues and committed yet another crime. They invaded the [Internal Affairs] Ministry building, assaulted and caused grievous bodily harm to the minister of internal affairs of the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and illegally searched the offices of his deputies...."

This announcement was published by SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA on 30 June 1992. Employees of the central apparatus of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic Ministry of Internal Affairs are signing up to participate in protest action. The danger of an ethnic crisis has once again appeared. In connection with this, a reporter from our paper talked with Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Givi Lominadze, Abkhaz minister of internal affairs.

[Kistauri] Batoni Givi! The incident that occurred on 24 June has once again shown us the real face of those seeking ethnic conflicts....

[Lominadze] It has been the dream of Ardzinba [chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council] and his henchmen to appoint an Abkhaz national to the post of internal affairs minister. My candidacy was wholly unacceptable for their purposes as they needed a minister whom they could control. The minister of internal affairs can use this post splendidly as a punitive mechanism for the "Abkhaz elements" as it is precisely a repressive mechanism for them. Six months ago, Ardzinba also transferred the internal troops under his direct control. Thus, his intentions are very clear and simple: If, along with the troops, the apparatus of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will also protect his interests, "Georgians will no longer be able to oppress Abkhazians." This is the best means of psychologically and physically breaking those Georgians living in the Abkhaz region.

[Kistauri] It is significant that this fact occurred precisely on the day of the meeting between the Russian president and State Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze.

[Lominadze] Of course, this step had been planned but it was not to take place so early. The entry into the arena in Tbilisi of the ex-president's supporters [a reference to the failed coup attempt of 24 June] hastened the disclosure of Ardzinba's policy.

[Kistauri] Batoni Givi! Ardzinba has said: "Nobody, however, suffered during this latest incident"

[Lominadze] The Ministry of Internal Affairs does not stop working for a single moment; beginning with the reception of citizens and ending with a conference, it has fulfilled its functions. I will remind you that Abkhazians are also among the ministry's employees and when the armed band invaded the building, the collective of employees virtually divided into two. Of course, this is equivalent to betrayal as each person has taken an oath and he must, first and foremost, fulfill the orders of his immediate superior. A group of

approximately 12 persons invaded the building at about 2330. When Ankva [militia colonel appointed by the Abkhaz Government as acting internal affairs minister] appeared, I told them that they had blackened their own names. They tried to justify themselves by saying that all this had been done with agreement from Tbilisi, which was a lie. Thank God, our men were not there as on one side of our building is an eight-storied apartment bloc and on the other a kindergarten. Who knows what sort of tragedy we would have witnessed.

[Kistauri] The only link missing in the Abkhaz chain of command was the Ministry of Internal Affairs....

[Lominadze] Abkhazians make up 99 percent of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers as well. The procurator and judge are Abkhaz and they also wanted the [internal] minister to be an Abkhaz. This would enable Ardzinba to implement his policies.

[Kistauri] As we know, the group of participants in the protest action are demanding that the Ministry of Internal Affairs building be vacated and the status quo be restored.

[Lominadze] Of the eight departments, a minimum of five support me. There are both Abkhaz and Georgians in each of them. Ardzinba is a political corpse since this step of his has not succeeded. Employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are not obeying Ankva. I am quite sure of this.

[Kistauri] The appeal by the "Democratic Abkhazia" faction has resulted in strikes in enterprises and establishments....

[Lominadze] People's patience has reached its limits. Ardzinba hates everything Georgian and this can be seen very well at the sessions over which he presides and also in the press in which all the material is biased and full of cynicism.

[Kistauri] Do you think that the Abkhaz problem can be resolved without bloodshed?

[Lominadze] Ardzinba and his supporters must withdraw from politics. If he does not resign, an explosion will probably be unavoidable. The Abkhaz do not care who will be president in Georgia. It is simply advantageous for them to have the current situation where supporters of the ex-president are resorting to all kinds of inept ways; they are taking advantage of this moment. Although it is perhaps not outwardly visible, they have not been indifferent to the setting of Gamsakhurdia's sun....

Therefore, until parliament resigns, there can be no talk of peace.

[Kistauri] We wish you a speedy recovery. Thank you very much.

Post Scriptum. This speedy interview with Batoni Givi Lominadze took place in the hospital. We apologize to him as we are aware of his condition. He has promised to speak at greater length as soon as he has recovered.

Estonia

Paramilitary Group Attacks Russian Soldiers

LD1507160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1535 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, Jul 15—There has been another attack on Russian servicemen by the "Kaitseliit" Estonian paramilitary group. ITAR-TASS has learned from the Russian procuracy's main department for law enforcement in the armed forces that on the evening of 14 July, near the settlement of Viktorisulu, a group of the so-called "Forest Brothers" fired on a GAZ-66 that was carrying supplies. Senior Lieutenant Kirilovskiy received serious stomach injuries. Russian servicemen returned fire and tried to detain the attackers, but they disappeared in an unknown direction.

Further Details Noted

LD1507180192 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English
1520 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Another regretful incident involving Russian military occurred in Estonia [words indistinct]. A truck bearing a Russian Army number plate entered the territory of Rescue Department Headquarters near the site of forest fires at Vihterpalu, northwestern Estonia, yesterday. As the vehicle had ignored traffic signs at the entrance a second lieutenant of the Estonian Border Defense made attempt to force a stop. The Russian military in response opened machine-gun fire at the guard. A commander of the guard of the Border Defense Department who went to the site after making a shot warning [as heard] fired at the truck's wheels. This warning as well was ignored by the military. The Russian Army vehicle was followed and later stopped without forcible action. According to the head of command of the Border Defense Department [name indistinct] a Russian Army soldier and a first lieutenant armed with a machine-gun was discovered in the driver's cab and a wounded person in civilian clothing, also carrying a machine-gun, in the truck box [as heard]. The First Lieutenant quite readily [indistinct words] saying he had been order to obey nobody's commands. Later still he agreed to talk to a police patrol that had arrived at the site. The wounded in the truck was taken to hospital where he was identified as lieutenant in the Russian Army. Police have declined to give the (?broadcasting) service any information about either this event or the military involved.

Russian Commander Sends 'Threats'

OW1607141692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commander of Russia's 6th AD [not further specified] Army Lieutenant General Ivanov directed a

"demarche" letter to Arnold Ruutel, head of the Estonian parliament, Wednesday [15 July], denouncing the incident at Vihepalu (north-western Estonia) earlier this week.

According to the information provided by the press service of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "the letter contains direct threats to the Estonian authorities and citizens of the republic".

On July 14, a group of Russian servicemen were engaged by an Estonian border guard party in the vicinity of Vil. Vihepalu. [as received] One Russian serviceman was wounded in the skirmish that ensued.

The Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has lodged a note of protest to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the expression of "deep concern" over the threats contained in the commanding general's letter, emphasizing that "such 'demarches' extremely negatively reflect on the relations between the two countries".

The note of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs says, that the Estonian authorities have initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident.

According to BALTFAX' earlier reports, in the recent month the Russian and Estonian personnel have had up to ten armed confrontations, the attacker always being guardsmen of the "Kaitseliit" ("Defense Union"—Estonian national home guard volunteer organization—BF [BALTFAX]), who profess to "continue the cause of the post-war "metsa vennad" ("forest fraternity") organization".

Estonia Accused of Hindering Troop Withdrawal

OW1607140592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with BALTFAX the Commander of Russia's north-western Army grouping Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov said the head of the Estonian Parliament Arnold Ruutel had failed to act on his repeated pledges to cooperate with the military in the efforts to remove the troops and Army hardware from his republic's territory. On the contrary, Mironov said, Estonia had been doing its best to hinder the troop withdrawal. The General cited the Estonian ban on the withdrawal of Russia's 6th Brigade from the city of Pyarnu.

The Russian Commander was apprehensive about the growing number of armed assaults, by Estonian Army-men, on Russian Army installations and individual servicemen in Estonia.

On Wednesday [15 July] the Russian Parliament accused the Estonian authorities of torpedoing the bilateral military and political dialog.

Latvia**NATO Experts Arrive for Defense Issue Talks***LD1607045192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1300 GMT 14 Jul 92*

[Text] A group of NATO experts arrived in Riga. The NATO representatives are to meet specialists from the Ministry of Defense and share their experience in working out the conceptual principles of defense, in working out budgets, and in organizing military education and training. They have also promised to offer theoretical and practical experience in the organizing of arms exploitation, economic, (?and trade control), and various engineering technical [word indistinct]. The [words indistinct] in Latvia until 16 July.

Interparliamentary Group Returns From UK*LD1707074192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1730 GMT 14 Jul 92*

[Text] Today, at the Supreme Council, there was a news conference with representatives of the Interparliamentary Group of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, who have returned from a visit to the British parliament. Seven deputies, led by Valdis Birkavs, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, were in the group.

Interparliamentary groups function in nearly every country. (?Their value), as one deputy put it, is to (?invest in promoting) the exchange of international experience and information. About 40 deputies have applied to be in the Latvian interparliamentary group, but 15 to 20 people are active in it.

The Latvian delegation acquainted itself with the work of the British interparliamentary group, meeting representatives of the Liberal Democratic, Labour, and Conservative Parties. The delegation also got to know the structure and working methods of the British parliament. Deputy Valdis Birkavs is continuing his stay in Great Britain, to give lectures about Latvia.

Fodder Production Falls Below Predictions*LD1607223492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1730 GMT 14 Jul 92*

[Text] The Effective Information Center at the Ministry of Agriculture has assembled information about the fodder that has been produced. More than 380,000 tonnes of hay have been gathered and stored indoors, which is 71 percent of the amount envisaged for this winter. This volume has been calculated for the sustenance of flocks on collective farms. There is no information about the hay needed and produced for peasant farms.

It must be hoped that the rain will continue for some time, and that it will be possible to gather another crop of fodder. However, in several rayons, even from the first crop relatively abundant fodder has been prepared. For example, in Cesis they have stored in barns even more

hay than was anticipated. In Ogre rayon, by today 94 percent has been gathered, and in Riga rayon 91 percent of the hay.

Lithuania**Parliament Accepts Vagnorius Resignation***LD1607122692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English
2300 GMT 15 Jul 92*

[Text] The Lithuanian parliament has accepted Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius's resignation following yesterday's vote of non-confidence against the prime minister. Members of the cabinet have also returned the authorizations along with Mr. Vagnorius. The Lithuanian Parliamentary leader, Vytautas Landsbergis, presented the MPs [members of parliament] with a draft resolution to continue to work until a new cabinet is formed. Discussions on this issue continued throughout the day.

The new parliamentary majority, with the so-called Leftists, insisted on separating the resignation of the prime minister from the resignation of the cabinet and suggested to present temporary authorizations to a new head of government over the old cabinet. Pressure was exerted on Vytautas Landsbergis and the Sajudis coalition MPs not to allow Gedimanas Vagnorius to remain at the helm of the government even for a restricted period of time. According to Mr. Landsbergis, the separation of the cabinet from its head is unconstitutional.

Following a short recess the leaders of parliamentary factions submitted two draft resolutions. The National Progress, Center, Democratic Labor Party and Polish factions objected that Gedimanas Vagnorius be given temporary authorizations as prime minister and suggested that one of his three deputies act as head of government. The Nationalist, Concord, Moderate and United Sajudis factions spoke out for allowing Gedimanas Vagnorius to act as prime minister until a concrete date, fixed by the parliament. The latter proposal was supported by the Liberals as well.

During the discussions Vytautas Landsbergis remarked that some of the MPs were trying to thrust on him a new candidate for the post of prime minister, thus limiting his prerogative to put forward a candidate of his own choice. Mr. Landsbergis suggested to fix a concrete date for voicing the name of the new candidate at the parliament, but until then Gedimanas Vagnorius should continue to act as prime minister. This latter proposal was finally accepted by the MPs following a voting procedure with 82 deputies saying yes to Mr. Landsbergis's proposal.

The next parliamentary sitting will be held on 21 July, when Vytautas Landsbergis presents a new candidate for the prime minister's post.

Vilnius Radio Carries Interview

LD1607123592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English
2300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The acting Prime Minister of Lithuania, Gedimanas Vagnorius, thinks that at the present time the last attempts are being made to stop political democratic reforms currently under way in Lithuania. Mr. Vagnorius told Radio Vilnius that he did not believe that these attempts would be successful since a lot of work had already been done to make economic changes irreversible. According to Gedimanas Vagnorius both the Bank of Lithuania and General Prosecutor's office had become political tools for complicating the situation in Lithuania for the purposes of bringing all blame on the government. [passage omitted]

The acting prime minister claims that a certain part of the prosecutor's office, government officials and even MPs [members of parliament] themselves maintain close contacts with the criminal world.

Gedimanas Vagnorius also told Radio Vilnius that the Lithuanian national currency, the Litas, will not be introduced on 1 August as had been planned, first of all because the banks had not prepared the necessary amount of the Litas notes. He admitted the fact that on his orders a special commission of experts had been set up to check the quality of the banknotes. However the results of this work made clear regret that the expertise [as heard] had not been carried out earlier said Gedimanas Vagnorius. [passage omitted]

Does 'Not Feel Humiliated'

LD1607194192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] I do not feel humiliated by being forced to resign, moreover as it was initiated by the left-wing parliamentary deputies, Gedimanas Vagnorius said at a news conference today. I do not intend to change my political convictions, he stressed.

Gediminas Vagnorius said he had no doubt about the necessity of the reforms started by his government. They are unavoidable and the speedier they progress the better for Lithuania. However, the reforms have been constantly hampered. The left wing of parliament has distinguished itself in this. The reforms have often been blocked by representatives of executive power, especially local government bodies.

Gediminas Vagnorius regrets that the strengthening of the executive power structures did not take place in August last year. He admits that he failed to demonstrate determination at that time. It was difficult to do this later, after the destructive forces had become stronger.

The prime minister also regrets that, having resigned, he will be unable to take an active part in the economic reform. However, I do not intend to withdraw from the arena of political struggle, he said. Vagnorius will strive

to be elected to the Seimas. He also has no doubt that many new progressive political forces will come to the Seimas. He did not reply to question with regard to who will become the leader of the executive power.

Vote 'Politically Motivated'

LD1607183492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1812 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustisla]

[Text] Vilnius July 16 TASS—"The government's resignation was not based on objective reasons," the acting prime minister of Lithuania, Gedimanas Vagnorius said here today during a press conference. He was commenting on the parliament's decision which had passed a vote of no confidence against him and forced him to resign.

According to the acting premier, who has been asked to head the government until 21 July, the no confidence motion, passed by the parliament against him by a majority vote, was "politically motivated".

When asked how he evaluates the action of the government regarding the normalization of relations with Russia, Gedimanas Vagnorius said: "Relations with Russia are very important for us," but "it is quite difficult to construct relations with it on a standard basis." According to him, Russia "does not always fulfill agreements signed with it."

Gedimanas Vagnorius evaded the answer to the question whether he intends to contest the head of the government's post when the Seimas - the new parliament - is elected in the autumn.

Blames Situation on Parliament

OW1607205292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1846 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian acting Prime-Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said at a press conference in Vilnius today that Parliament passed the vote of no confidence to him on political grounds.

Vagnorius said that it was impossible to criticize the economic reforms carried out under his directions, and "the destructive opposition started impeding them by artificial obstacles, pursuing their own political goals".

Speaking on the economic crisis, Vagnorius blamed "the new parliamentary majority", which, in his opinion, "made it impossible for the leadership to work". Besides, he blamed the board of directors of the Bank of Lithuania for their "unpreparedness for the introduction of a republican currency in early August and for disregarding the Lithuanian legislation".

When asked about his nomination to the Prime-Minister's post after a new parliament is elected in

October, Gediminas Vagnorius said that he "did not dream about this post nor did he seek it".

Landsbergis Cancels Trip Due to 'Crisis'

OW1607142392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Press Service under the Lithuanian Parliament has announced that Vytautas Landsbergis has canceled plans for a trip to the German Land of Schleswig-Holstein where he was invited to receive a Herman Ellers award.

The trip has been canceled owing to a Cabinet crisis in Lithuania.

Landsbergis To Appoint New Premier by 21 Jul

OW1607190692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In accordance with yesterday's parliament decision, parliament chairman Vytautas Landsbergis is to appoint and present to the parliament for approval a new prime minister by Tuesday July 21. The present government is to remain in office until the new one is formed.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Last Tuesday [14 July] the parliament gave a no confidence vote to the government (69 vs 6 votes). However, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said his government was not going to resign for a while.

At the end of the parliament session, Vagnorius said he was going on holiday the next day and would not be back until the new prime minister was appointed.

The parliament decided to continue its present session until it approved the appointment of new premier.

Landsbergis on Russian Troop Withdrawal

OW1607143492 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1309 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis feels verbal charges against the Baltic republics, by individual members of the Russian Parliament, reflect the overall consolidation of the reactionary forces in the Russian legislature.

On Wednesday [15 July] the Russian Parliament endorsed several statements and addresses to express its concern about the cases of infringement on the rights of foreign-born residents of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out that if Russia acted on Wednesday's proposals and declared its treaties with the Baltics null and void, it might face international isolation. But, the Lithuanian leader stressed, the Russian President was acting in the spirit of openness and trying to normalize relations with the outside world.

Landsbergis urged the Russian Parliament to concentrate its efforts on the withdrawal of the Russian troops. He pointed out his republic had suggested that the withdrawal be completed by year's end, and, he said, the railroad and other transport authorities were capable of insuring the implementation of the proposed timetable.

Protest Voiced Over Planned NWGF Maneuvers

LD1607170392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report by Gene Abraitiene]

[Text] It has been reported by the Government Information Bureau that Deputy Prime Minister Zigmantas Vaisvila today sent a telegram to Lieutenant General Melnichuk, first deputy commander of the northwestern group of armed forces [NWGF] of the Russian Federation. A categorical protest is voiced in the telegram against the maneuvers which are to be held on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania in the second half of July by the northwestern group of troops. Any exercises by foreign troops on the territory of sovereign Lithuania are impermissible, the telegram stresses.

Colonel Frolov, commander of the Russian troops deployed in Vilnius, has sent a letter to the Lithuanian defense minister. The letter says that following the killings of Russian servicemen in Armenia and after military vehicles had been attacked in Estonia, by order of the chief of staff of the northwestern group of armed forces, servicemen travelling by motor vehicles or by other means of transport will from 1 July of this year travel armed.

Defense Minister Departs For U.S. Visit

LD1607055592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Today Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius left on a private visit to the United States. During an eight-day visit, he will meet with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and will visit the Institute of Strategic Studies and some military bases.

The ELTA correspondent was told by Audrius Butkevicius that he hoped to establish closer ties of cooperation with the U.S. military services. In Europe such contacts have been established. After the visit by a delegation of the French General Staff this week, it is expected that representatives of the Armed Forces of Great Britain will visit Lithuania at the end of the month. Somewhat later a delegation of the German General Staff will arrive in Lithuania.